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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

True or false: How incumbent lawmakers will vote on the articles of impeachment against Gov. Fitial will influence my vote this November.

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INSIDE

MAHARLIKA



Growing up in a family of builders, Juan A. Gacayan Jr. knew what he'd end up as. **➤ PAGE 10**

ASIA



Sunni militants are again targeting minority ethnic Hazaras. **➤ PAGE 14**

YOUNGSTYLE



Halloween's not really all that scary—except for the traffic. **➤ PAGE 15**

\$2M price tag for CHC turnaround team

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial told lawmakers that bringing in a management team that would “turn around” the beleaguered Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. could cost the CNMI up to \$2 million for at least six months. There’s no telling where the government would get such an amount considering that \$114 million in projected resources have already been obligated under the fiscal year 2013 budget law.

The recommendation, made by HealthTech Management Services that surveyed the status of the Commonwealth Health Center, says the management team should be retained for a minimum of 180 days.

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) and Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) separately said yesterday that the source of funding to hire a CHC turnaround management team is unclear and the governor has not



Fitial

asked the Legislature for any specific appropriation measure to address this matter.

Camacho and Villagomez said the Fitial administration plans to issue a request for proposal to get the best team possible.

Villagomez said he strongly supports the release of an RFP, instead of awarding a sole-source contract.

“I hope the process is as transparent as possible,” Villagomez told

See CHC on Page 4

Austria probes gruesome fate of Nazi-era disabled

By GEORGE JAHN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HALL, Austria (AP)—Forensic crews scraping away dirt from the remains of the Nazi-era psychiatric patients were puzzled: The skeletal fingers were entwined in rosary beads. Why, the experts wondered, would the Nazis—who considered these people less than human—respect them enough to let them take their religious symbols to their graves?

It turns out they didn’t.

A year after the first of 221 sets of remains were exhumed at a former Austri-

See AUSTRIA on Page 4



In this picture taken Oct. 8, 2012 anthropologist Dr. George McGlynn shows human bones in the hospital in Hall near Innsbruck, Austria. **AP**



IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR

Senate staffers Pres Torres, right, unlocks her office’s door while Annie Benavente looks on right next to another Senate office whose door is adorned with a Halloween poster yesterday. Many offices at the Legislature on Capital Hill are now adorned with Halloween-themed posters and wall decors, giving brisk business to retailers carrying these specialty consumer goods.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

New case vs Miah dismissed anew

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Perry B. Inos has dismissed the charges against Mohammad Jahangir Miah who was arrested last week for allegedly receiving stolen items from William S. Reyes Elementary School.

Inos junked all the charges against the 37-year-old Miah after finding no probable cause to warrant the filing of the case

during Thursday’s preliminary hearing.

In a written order issued yesterday, Inos said he heard the testimony presented by the government’s witnesses and that he received no testimony or evidence that Miah purposely received, retained, or disposed of a Canon digital video camcorder that belonged to the Public School System.

“In fact, there was no evidence that defendant came in contact with or had any control over the stolen property,”

said the judge.

Inos determined that he finds no probable cause against Miah in count 1 of the information charging the defendant with receiving stolen property.

Inos said the viability of the other charges—four counts of criminal contempt—depend on a finding of probable cause in count 1.

Therefore, the judge said, he finds no probable cause against Miah in counts 2 to 5 criminal contempt charges.

At the preliminary hearing, attorney

See NEW CASE on Page 4

Mount Carmel’s grand anniversary today. PAGE 3
All set for tomorrow’s ‘rally against corruption’ PAGE 4

Local

Wiseman: Sgt. Deleon Guerrero deserves award of attorney's fees

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman stood pat

in his earlier decision to award attorney's fees to Police Sgt. James C. Deleon Guerrero for bringing a lawsuit to protest the Department of Public Safety's

discriminatory practices in its promotion and hiring.

In his order Thursday denying DPS' motion to amend his judgment, Wiseman said the

private attorney general doctrine of attorney's fees apply in this case, reiterating his earlier ruling that he operated under the evidence before him at the time of his decision.

Wiseman said DPS has not shown any new reason why he should reconsider his earlier judgment.

In March 2012, Wiseman issued a judgment favorable to Sgt. Deleon Guerrero in his lawsuit against DPS.

"Here, DPS turned a blind eye to Deleon Guerrero's grievances, and the Civil Service Commission was unable to hear his grievance due to lack of quorum, forcing him to hire an attorney to remedy the agency's

selection principles with reallocation and 'outside hire promotions,'" Wiseman said in that order.

Wiseman determined that there were continuing violations by DPS constituting de facto promotion by reallocation, which were not proper.

Wiseman awarded Deleon Guerrero attorneys' fees and costs on grounds of his prosecution of a private attorney general action.

The judge ordered DPS to demote Eloy K. Fitial of Tinian DPS from captain to sergeant.

DPS, through the Office of the Attorney General, filed a motion to amend findings of facts and to alter or amend the

judgment.

OAG pointed out that Fitial was actually demoted in October 2011 and that the court must amend its findings of fact and conclusions of law to clarify its judgment.

Deleon Guerrero, through counsel Robert T. Torres, argued that DPS has not alleged any intervening change in law and has failed to demonstrate manifest injustice.

See **WISEMAN** on Page 4

'Trustee *ad litem*'s bill reasonable'

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood has found reasonable the \$34,620.80 billing submitted by NMI Retirement Fund's trustee *ad litem* Joseph C. Razzano.

Tydingco-Gatewood expects the payment to be made within five business days from Wednesday, the date of her order.

As this developed, Razzano on Thursday billed the CNMI government \$19,935.72 as pay-

ment for professional fees and expenses of the Fund's two other attorneys, Braddock J. Huesman and Daniel Berman.

Huesman's total fee is \$1,960 for 9.80 hours at \$200 per hour, while Berman is \$16,125 for 64.50 hours at \$250 an hour. This brings professional fees to a total of \$18,085.

The per diem is \$1,058; travel cost is \$542.72; and pro hac vice application is \$250, for a total of \$1,850.72 for costs and

expenses incurred.

In her order issued Wednesday, Tydingco-Gatewood directed the CNMI government's counsel, assistant attorney general Reena Patel, to contact Razzano to obtain the account information to effectuate the transfer of funds.

Tydingco-Gatewood earlier ruled that the CNMI government shall be responsible for compensation and expenses for Razzano and all persons or entities employed or contracted by the trustee *ad litem* in carrying out his duties. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

Corp. forms medical equipment panel

A new committee that will not only assess but also monitor all requests for new medical equipment was recently formed for the Commonwealth Health Center.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta created the Medical Equipment Committee and appointed Warren Villagomez as the panel's chairman effective immediately. Villagomez is also the hospital's emergency preparedness program director.

In his memorandum to hospital employees, Babauta stated that Villagomez will assume "the responsibilities for accountability, inventory, procurement, contracts, and preventive maintenance of all medical equipment for the public hospital."

The CEO also named four individuals who will provide support to the committee: Tom

Palacios, medical supply officer Nicolas Nekai, nursing director Leticia Reyes, and finance officer Lucia Salas.

According to Babauta, the committee will develop a tracking and monitoring system for all equipment purchases, repairs, and preventive maintenance.

Villagomez told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that also part of the panel's tasks is to evaluate all equipment purchase requests before a recommendation is endorsed to the CEO.

This way, Villagomez said, urgent medical equipment needs will be given higher priority.

He said the committee was created primarily for "effective and efficient response to the day-to-day needs of the hospital."

At present, the committee is collaborating with a vendor for the purchase of a new CT scan. **(Moneth Deposa)**

One of the oldest schools on island, Hopwood Junior High School, is gearing up to celebrate the institution's golden anniversary in December.

Hopwood Junior High School principal Jonas Barcinas told *Saipan Tribune* that the highlight of the event is the "50 Years In Review," which will showcase the school and students' memorabilia, and a tribute to the person for whom the institution was named after—Adm. Herbert Gladstone Hopwood, a four-star admiral in the U.S. Navy and commander in chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet from 1958 to 1960.

Committees for logistics to entertainment have been created to encourage the school's alumni to support for the event. The school committees are encouraging alumni to share their photos, yearbooks, and other materials that will showcase their lives at the school.

Barcinas said they also look forward to the participation of the school's former administrators, teachers, and alumni to make the occasion more memorable.

He disclosed they are in communication with the late admiral's grandson who lives in Pennsylvania on the possibility of him attending the celebration on Saipan.

The golden anniversary is tentatively scheduled for the week of Dec. 22-23, in time for the school's Christmas break.

After retiring from the U.S. Navy, Hopwood worked as vice president in charge of operations for the Grace Steamship Co. until 1964. He married the former Jean Fulton and they lived in retirement in New Jersey. He was twice awarded the Legion of Merit for his World War II service, once as director of planning and control in the Bureau of Naval Personnel and once as commanding officer of the light cruiser *Cleveland*.

Hopwood Junior High School is originally the first institution of higher learning in the CNMI.

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust has scheduled a MPLT Trustees Special Meeting to be held on Wednesday, October 24, 2012 beginning at 6:00PM at MPLT Conference Room, 1222 Capital Hill Road, Capital Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

The following agenda is hereby established:

- I PRELIMINARIES
 - 1. Call to Order
 - 2. Roll Call
 - 3. Adoption of Agenda
- II ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT - none
- III CONSULTANT'S REPORTS - none
- IV LEGAL COUNSEL
 - CHCC Matters
- V OLD BUSINESS - none
- VI COMMUNICATIONS - none
- VII NEW BUSINESS - none
- VIII MISCELLANEOUS
- IX ADJOURNMENT

At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body. All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Pedro R. Deleon Guerrero
Chairman, MPLT Trustees

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Mount Carmel School's grand anniversary celebration today

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After months of meeting and planning, Mount Carmel School is ready to celebrate "Generations of a Legacy," its 60th anniversary.

The festivities will start today with a 4pm Mass at Mount Carmel Cathedral and conclude with a "Night with the Knights" fundraising banquet at 6pm at Saipan World Resort.

Preparations for the event got a boost a few weeks ago when Bank of Guam stepped in as a major corporate sponsor. School president and 1991 AlumKnight Galvin Deleon Guerrero said that Bank of Guam has been a consistent supporter of the school.

The school's alumni—referred to as AlumKnights in connection with the school's

mascot—formed the 60th Anniversary Planning Committee and started meeting as early as June this year to prepare for the event. Drawing from graduates throughout the school's history, the committee focused on preparing a celebration that would pay tribute to the school's 60-year legacy, hence the theme, "Generations of a Legacy."

Deleon Guerrero said the celebration will include a diverse range of activities to reflect the many generations of students that have been educated at the school.

AlumKnights have been appearing on the morning radio show on KKMP in the last few weeks to share stories of their days at the school. Each week featured AlumKnights from different decades, starting with those from the 1960s and work-

ing all the way up to the new millennium.

As part of today's Mass, AlumKnights will donate 60 bottles of wine to the clergy, as well as candles for each graduating class, representing AlumKnights and former teachers who have passed on or are gravely ill.

At the fundraising banquet, members of the school's Theatre Club will model old student uniforms in a "Blast from the Past" fashion show. This will

be followed by a video montage highlighting memorable moments in the school's history.

Throughout the night, the Aetna's Regime, composed of mostly AlumKnights, will take AlumKnights back in time to their school days with music from the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, and even the new millennium. There will also be a special presentation by John Bendt, nephew of the school's founding father, Fr. Arnold

Bendowski, OPM.

In addition to the entertainment, the banquet will provide several fundraising opportunities for AlumKnights and supporters. The Class Pledge Drive will challenge each class to pledge a financial contribution to the school. A silent auction will allow AlumKnights to bid for classic school memorabilia, including old yearbooks and student artwork. The school's Student Council will also de-

but the school's first Student Store that night and sell school merchandise like tote bags, lanyards, and apparel. A raffle will also be held for numerous prizes donated by local businesses and AlumKnights.

While tickets for the banquet have been selling fast, space is still available. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$60 a couple. For more information, call 234-6184 or email keikoyamagata74@yahoo.com.

Fitial's motion to dismiss lawsuit under advisement

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman placed under advisement Thursday Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's motion to dismiss the lawsuit filed by the Senate and Reps. Janet U. Maratita (Ind-Saipan) and Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan) over the alleged unlawful \$190.8-million power purchase agreement.

Wiseman also placed under advisement Fitial's motion to strike or dismiss significant portions of the lawsuit.

Assistant attorney general David Lochabay argued for Fitial and the CNMI government. Attorney Ramon Quichocho argued for the Senate, Maratita, and Yumul.

Lochabay reiterated that most of the allegations in the complaint are legal conclusions cast in the

form of factual allegations, and that for this reason the causes of action should be dismissed.

Lochabay said the plaintiffs have failed to show that there was a single actual expenditure of government funds relating to the power purchase agreement.

He said much of the language used in the complaint is clearly prejudicial and should be stricken.

Lochabay said the plaintiffs also keep repeating the language "mysterious" regarding Saipan Development LLC, a registered Delaware corporation. The use of the phrase "in secret" places the CNMI government in a derogatory light, he added.

He pointed out that it is not unusual for contract negotiations to be kept confidential in the course of doing ordinary business.

Lochabay asserted that the terms and conditions of the

power purchase agreement are clearly not being kept a secret as they are contained in the plaintiffs' own exhibits that were filed in their complaint.

Quichocho, meanwhile, argued that the defendants have failed to present any legal basis or authority for the lawsuit to be dismissed. He said the complaint contains all factual allegations.

Quichocho pointed out that committing funds pursuant to the agreement is already in itself an expenditure of public funds. Since there's already an agreement signed, nobody knows how much the government had actually already spent, he added.

On the motion to strike, the lawyer said Fitial wants to strike all the words that he doesn't like. He said the defendants failed to present single authority that the use of the words are redundant

and should be stricken.

Quichocho said that Saipan Development has not even complained about the language.

He said all the documents they received related to the power purchase agreement came from sources and none from the defendants.

The Senate, Maratita, and Yumul are suing Fitial, former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and Saipan Development LLC to stop the 25-year power purchase agreement that Fitial and Buckingham signed with Saipan Development.

Three mariners rescued after five days adrift in Pacific

HONOLULU—Three fishermen are safe after drifting for five days without food. The fishermen were located 80 miles off Tarawa Wednesday.

The three men, 30, 20 and 20, departed Tarawa Friday in a 17-foot boat on a fishing trip when they encountered engine trouble about five miles from shore. The vessel was not equipped with oars or paddles and the men attempted to break off portions of the boat to paddle back to shore.

The men were reported missing Friday and local authorities from Tarawa began searching.

On Monday the U.S. Embassy in Fiji requested Coast Guard assistance with the search. Watchstanders at the Joint Rescue Coordination Center Honolulu developed a search plan using the Search and Rescue Optimal Planning System. An HC-130 Hercules airplane crew from Air Station Barbers Point was launched at 11:40am. Mon-

day to assist in the search. The aircrew traveled 2,100 miles from Oahu to the search area.

On Tuesday the Hercules crew deployed four self-locating datum marker buoys to calculate drift and refine the search area.

The watch commander at the Joint Rescue Coordination Center in Honolulu extended the search area to account for update modeling data that resulted in the aircrew spotting a vessel matching the description of the missing boat Wednesday. The crew contacted search and rescue coordinators in Tarawa who were able to direct a good Samaritan vessel to the location and positively identify the missing men. They were rescued and transported back to Tarawa where they received a medical evaluation and were released. The men had no food and ran out of water the morning of their rescue.

The aircrew searched for approximately two days, covering an area approximately 2,800 square miles. (USCG)

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All set for tomorrow's 'rally against corruption'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

All is set for tomorrow's "rally against corruption" being organized by private citizens, including Glen Hunter and Ed Propst, four days after the defeat of a House of Representatives resolution impeaching Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for 16 allegations of corruption, neglect of duty, and felony. The rally will also be held days ahead of the Nov. 6 mid-term elections.

Hunter said the result of Wednesday's session "sparked a rise in an already overflowing sense of civic duty and our fight against corruption."

"We are expecting a good showing at this Sunday's rally against corruption. We are inviting the nine noble members of the House that voted 'yes' and any other candidates that would like the governor to be held accountable to come out and join us at this celebration," Hunter told *Saipan Tribune*.

The so-called "Noble 9" include

House minority leader Joe Deleon Guerrero, main author of the impeachment resolution, along with Reps. Ray Tebuteb, Ray Yumul, Frank Dela Cruz, Tony Sablan, Janet Maratita, Trenton Conner, Ralph Demapan, and Edmund Villagomez.

Sunday's anti-corruption rally will be from 10am to 12pm at the Microl Intersection in San Jose, the same spot where a pro-impeachment road waving was held last Sept. 16.

Hunter said he agrees that "the issue

now goes before the public and can be decided on in the Nov. 6 vote."

"We know all the facts involved in the 16 articles of impeachment and we know that we must replace 10 members of the House that embrace the corrupt practices and have denied the public closure on these sensitive issues by sending it to the Senate," Hunter said.

Yumul said he will join this rally against corruption. Yumul and Maratita, along with the Senate, sued the governor over a sole-source \$190.8-mil-

lion power purchase agreement. The court granted a temporary restraining order on the 25-year deal involving a 50-megawatt diesel power plant.

This \$190.8 million PPA is among the issues included in the impeachment allegations against the governor.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), in a separate interview, said that, while the impeachment resolution was defeated at the House, "it is good that people already know who to vote and not to vote [for]."

AUSTRIA

From Page 1

an hospital cemetery, investigators now believe the beads were likely nothing more than a cynical smokescreen, placed to mislead relatives attending the burials into thinking that the last stage of their loved ones' lives was as dignified as their funerals.

But skeletons don't lie. Forensic work shows that more than half of the victims had broken ribs and other bone fractures from blows likely dealt by hospital personnel. Many died from illnesses such as pneumonia, apparently caused by a combination of physical injuries, a lack of food and being immobilized for weeks at a time.

Neither do medical records, which show that medical personnel cursed their patients as "imbeciles," "idiots" and "useless eaters."

Indeed, there is now little doubt that for many of the dead—mentally and physically disabled people considered by the Nazis to be human garbage—their final months were hell on Earth.

Nazi extermination of the mentally and physically deficient has been documented since the end of World War II. But information gathered from the hospital cemetery in Hall, an ancient Tyrolean town of narrow, cobble-stoned alleys, cozy inns and graceful church spires east of Innsbruck, has filled out the picture in chilling new ways.

Historians, anthropologists, physicians and archaeologists say the Hall project represents the first time that investigators can match hospital records with remains, allowing them to identify, for example, cases in which patients

had broken ribs, noses and collarbones that were not listed in their medical histories, suggesting that the patients had been beaten by those responsible for their care.

Faced with the horrors of the findings, those involved in the probe struggle to maintain the detached attitude of an investigator.

"At first, I sat here and worked through these documents in a relatively dry manner from the point of view of a scientist," psychiatrist Christian Haring said. "But as you read on at some point, you suddenly find yourself in a world where the goose-bumps appear."

Anthropologist George McGlynn said more than half of the sets of remains have broken bones, many of them unexplained in the patients' medical records.

"Why is a stubbed toe talked about in three different (documents), but six rib fractures that cause terrible pain isn't even mentioned?" he asked.

While such injuries did not kill directly, they may often have led to death. Many of the patients are listed as dying of pneumonia, and McGlynn said the "scary conclusion" is that rib injuries combined with sedation and forced immobility—patients are suspected to have been strapped to their beds for weeks at a time—may have generated fatal incidences of the disease.

"Nobody is being executed here, like you see in concentration camps," he said. "It was done in a more sinister, insidious way—people are loaded up with drugs until they get a lung infection."

Forensic examination of the bones shows infection that started at the skin level then "goes right into the muscle

and all the way to the bone," McGlynn said.

Others apparently starved—if not to death, then to the point where they were susceptible to diseases that then killed them.

"We can assume that the patients suffered massively from hunger," said Haring, the psychiatrist, speaking of "enormous" losses in weight.

The Nazis called people deemed too sick, weak or disabled to fit Hitler's image of a master race "unworthy lives," in the terrible culmination of the cult of eugenics that gained international popularity in the early 1900s as a way to improve the "racial quality" of future generations.

"Patients, who on the basis of human judgment are considered incurable, can be granted mercy death after a discerning diagnosis," Hitler wrote in a 1939 decree that opened the flood gates to the mass killings.

More than 70,000 such people were killed, gassed to death or otherwise murdered between 1939 and 1941, when public protests stopped most wholesale massacres. From then until the end of the war in 1945, the killings continued at the hands of doctors and nurses. In all, at least 200,000 physically or mentally disabled people were killed by medication, starvation, neglect or in the gas chambers during the war.

After 1941, McGlynn said, "a lot of the smaller institutions were given carte blanche to take care of things themselves. No longer were people being transported to (killing) centers. They were being put to sleep right there."

Hundreds of psychiatric patients from Hall were among those shipped

to killing centers before 1941, but what happened there after that was unknown until two years ago, when an archivist searching through old hospital files discovered the graveyard during a hospital expansion.

The records show that as the war progressed, and able-bodied men and women became scarce behind the front lines, the Nazis made a cynical adjustment in their measurement of patients' value.

"'Worthy of life' and 'unworthy of life' were the terms used back then," Haring said. "The difference was ability to work or not."

Excerpts of medical histories provided to The Associated Press described one of the patients as suffering from "imbecility," but most were objective, bereft of demeaning descriptions. McGlynn, however, said he had examined

records that show emotional abuse in addition to the physical violence the remains attest to.

"People are being threatened: 'If you don't do this we are going to stuff this tube down your nose and pump you full of stuff,'" he said. "These people were at the mercy of their captors."

Other evidence backs up his findings.

Documents show that the cemetery was created in 1942, a year after the formal end of the mass-killing campaign meant that Hall patients could no longer be shipped to gas chambers. It was shut down and abandoned in 1945, when the war ended. During that time, deaths in the psychiatric ward rose from an average of 4 percent a month in early 1942 to as high as 20 percent in some months before the end of the war.

NEW CASE

From Page 1

Colin Thompson served as counsel for Miah. Assistant attorney general James McAllister represented the government.

Chief prosecutor Peter B. Prestley filed the information against Miah on Wednesday.

According to Prestley in the information, on Oct. 3, 2012, Miah received a Canon digital video camcorder belonging to PSS knowing that it had been stolen.

Prestley said that Miah committed criminal contempt on that day because he failed to comply with the court's bail orders on his pending four criminal cases.

Police arrested Miah last Oct. 10.

During a bail hearing last Oct. 13, Michael Ernest, who temporarily served as counsel for Miah, said the po-

lice have already arrested the defendant on the same charges.

Ernest said that Miah had already posted a \$1,000 bail, yet they arrested him again without any document just to set a \$10,000 cash bail.

Police detective Alexander T. Sakisat stated in his report that detectives searched the home of Sariful Islam in Chalan Piao on Sept. 25, 2012, after a witness gave information that Islam was storing stolen items in the house.

Sakisat said that Islam told police that some of the items, including the Canon digital video camcorder that were found in his house, belong to Miah.

Miah pleaded not guilty.

Miah is awaiting sentencing in federal court for conspiracy to unlawfully produce driver's licenses.

In July 2012, the federal court acquitted Miah for lack of corroborating evidence in a case of conspiracy to forge stale CNMI tax refund checks.

CHC

From Page 1

Saipan Tribune.

U.S.-based HealthTech Management Services recommended the issuance of an RFP to evaluate and hire a turnaround management team to quickly stabilize CHC operations and begin the implementation of recommendations.

The report calls for a team that includes an experienced chief executive officer, chief nursing officer, chief financial officer, and business office manager that can provide leadership to assist in correcting the deficiencies found by a U.S. Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services survey.

Villagomez said that based on Tuesday's meeting with the governor, Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, and House leadership members, the federally funded HealthTech study was worth some \$170,000.

Besides the source of funding, Villagomez is also asking whether the current CHC management team led by

CEO Juan N. Babauta would continue to hold their positions while a turnaround management team performs its tasks.

If the existing CEO and the rest of the management team will continue holding their posts, then that could mean the government would be paying for two CEOs during the term of the contract with a turnaround management term. Babauta's annual salary is \$96,000.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said, "This has not been discussed yet as the administration and corporation are currently reviewing the assessment report.

"Obviously, once the review is completed, necessary steps will then be decided in line with moving forward with the action plan," Demapan said.

As to the source of funding to bring in a turnaround management team, Demapan said, "The administration would certainly look into opportunities to obtain federal funding assistance."

"The current budget has already been obligated pursuant to the current fiscal

year budget law. With such scarce local resources, it's difficult to imagine that reprogramming would even be possible," he said.

Villagomez believes that HealthTech's \$170,000 assessment report should have been done by a "transition" team, when the Department of Public Health was about to be transitioned to a corporation last year.

"But there was no transition team to begin with," he added.

Camacho, for his part, said HealthTech's recommended plans for CHC look "promising." But he said it boils down to available funding to implement any plans.

The governor, in his letter to Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), said he plans to meet again with lawmakers to identify "most effective ways to improve medical services and will be taking immediate steps to implement the changes recommended in the recent analysis" by HealthTech.

WISEMAN

From Page 2

Torres argued that despite the alleged post-hearing demotion of Fitial, the record still establishes there is evidence to justify the awarding of attorney's fees.

Torres said the court noted that despite DPS' assertions that its practice of wrongful promotions had ended, the evidence indicated that it had not.

On the attorney's fees issue, OAG claimed that the award of attorney's fees based on the private attorney general doctrine of attorney's fees should be revised because the doctrine has been struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court and is disfavored by a majority of states.

Torres argued that the purpose of the private attorney general doctrine of at-

torney's fees is to encourage suits that effectuate strong public policies by awarding attorney's fees to those who successfully bring such suits and thereby benefit a broad class of citizens.

In denying DPS' motion, Wiseman said DPS has not pointed to any intervening change in the controlling law or the availability of new evidence.

Wiseman said DPS points to evidence in existence prior to entry of judgment.

Further, he said, DPS has failed to demonstrate any clear error or the need to prevent manifest injustice.

On the attorney's fees, Wiseman said even if he had been made aware of demotion of Fitial before entry of his judgment, the fact remains that Deleon Guerrero was forced to hire an attorney and shoulder the expenses of litigating the issue for the benefit of not only himself but all government employees.

Messages of support pour in for Aging Center's Manglona

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Messages of support and encouragement filled the Facebook page of Walter A. Manglona, the Aging Office employee whose contract was purportedly not renewed because of his pro-impeachment sentiments and his support for a CNMI delegate candidate.

One Facebook user, Ed Propst, posted a photo of Manglona holding a girl and describing the program coordinator as a dedicated family man, kind caring, exceptionally gifted, and talented.

The post garnered at least 162 "likes" as of press time, and a number of Manglona's friends on the social networking website posted accolades and positive words such as "don't let them step on you," "stand tall,"

"hang in there," and "you're doing a great job."

Manglona, who has been with the agency helping the island's elderly for over a decade, earlier said that his source from the Office of Management and Budget told him that his name and that of a bus driver have been crossed out from the employee list and was sanctioned by Secretary Melvin Faisao of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

This caused an uproar at the Aging Center Wednesday morning, with several *man'amko* yelling and screaming as they streamed inside director Rose Mondala's office to oppose the decision.

In a post yesterday, Manglona described as "funny" how Mondala "literally threw me under the bus" by saying that

he was using the *man'amko*'s Christmas CD project as leverage to keep his job.

"I had done so many things with no praise from this administration. How is making money for the *man'amko* a bad thing? I am not getting a single dime from this," he said.

Manglona emphasized that music is part of the Aging Program State Plan, contradicting Mondala's earlier statement

"I am not a dramatic kind of guy. I hope we can continue working for our clients. Please keep politics out. Judge me by my work ethics, workload and performance and not what is written on my Facebook wall," added Manglona.

Manglona's recent post said he is working on the Christmas album of the congregates at the Aging Center and that all pro-

ceeds will help support the senior citizens. "I am not a dramatic kind of guy. I hope we can continue working together for our clients. Please keep politics out. Judge me by my work ethics, workload and performance and not what is written on my facebook wall. above my job description for a

salary not even worth mentioning. I never forced anyone to back me up. The *man'amko*'s knows what I have done for them. They appreciate it. Apparently, my director and whoever else is above her are trying to make me look bad to the public because of stupid political Facebook posts. I

am not a dramatic kind of guy. I hope we can continue working together for our clients. Please keep politics out. Judge me by my work ethics, workload and performance and not what is written on my Facebook wall. My Director said music is not part of the Aging Program State Plan. News flash Ms. Rose DLG. Mondala, it is!!!!!! Read it."

Camacho accepts 4th plea deal in video rob case

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho finally accepted Thursday the fourth plea deal offered by the prosecution to video store robbery suspect Benjamin Jones Castro Jr.

Castro pleaded guilty to robbery in exchange for dropping the remaining charges of assault and battery and theft.

Camacho sentenced Castro to 10 years in prison, all suspended except for five years, without parole or early release. He was given credit for eight days of time served.

After serving his sentence, Castro will be placed on supervised probation for five years. He was required to pay \$379 in restitution to Hollywood Video and a \$500 fine, plus \$225 in court and probation fees. Castro was also ordered to perform 200 hours of community service.

Camacho said the only reason he accepted the five-year prison sentence was because the victim agreed that the sentence was acceptable and that Castro "did not spill any blood."

Otherwise, the judge said, Castro was looking at full maximum sentence of 10 years in prison.

Camacho rejected three of

Castro's plea agreement because he deemed them too lenient. The previous plea deals recommended prison terms of just two years, then two and a half years, and then three years.

Camacho is known for rejecting lenient plea agreements and imposing full maximum sentences.

Chief Public Defender Adam Hardwicke is counsel for the defendant. Assistant attorney general Chemere McField represented the government.

Castro robbed Hollywood Video in San Jose, Saipan, on Feb. 24, 2012. He came up behind the female cashier, choked her, and forced her to open the cash register and surrender the money inside.

Castro took \$379 in cash from the register and fled.

Police said the 23-year-old female cashier had slight injuries in her right jaw.

NMI Marshal Division receives radio equipment from Homeland Security



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Homeland Security Special Assistant Marvin K. Seman presents Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro with a donation of digital radios.

The CNMI Office of Homeland Security has donated seven digital handheld radios to the CNMI Marshal Service Division.

The radios will greatly improve the marshals' intra-division communications and allow members to communicate by radio with the Department of Public Safety, the Department of Corrections, and the Emergency Management Office.

Under Public Law 17-41, the Marshal Division assumed new duties and responsibilities outside the courthouse. Marshals now serve jury summonses, bench warrants, and other court orders. They have undergone

firearms and officer survival training with the Department of Public Safety and taken specialized standard procedure training from the U.S. Federal Marshals on Guam.

CNMI Homeland Security Special Assistant Marvin K. Seman made the presentation of the equipment to Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro, who commented that in obtaining this equipment with the help of Homeland Security "the Marshal Service Division moves forward on its course of becoming a fully trained and equipped partner among the law enforcement agencies." (PR)

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**12th CNMI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**
Wednesday, October 24, 2012 at 8:30 a.m.
BOE Conference Room
Bwughos Street, Susupe, Saipan

AGENDA

I. Preliminary

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Roll Call
- 3) Adoption of Agenda
- 4) Adoption of Minutes
 - a) September 20, 2012 SBOE Meeting

II. Public Comments¹

III. Reports

- 1) Chair
- 2) Board Committees
 - a) FPA
 - b) ISA
 - c) LIA
 - d) CIP
 - e) Student Services & Parental/Community Programs (SSPCP)
- 3) Commissioner of Education
 - i. Financial Matters
 - a. Federal
 - b. Local
 - ii. Head Start Program
 - iii. Other Matters

IV. Unfinished Business

V. New Business

- 1) Head Start Program SY2012-2013 WSP-1
- 2) Education Month Proclamation

VI. Executive Session²

- 1) Legal Updates
- 2) Personnel
- 3) Other matters

VII. Miscellaneous Matters

1. Certification & Licensure Officer

VIII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

IX. Adjournment

¹ Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

² Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Cuba's paper wall falls

The following editorial appeared in the Los Angeles Times on Thursday, Oct. 18:

For 50 years, Cubans have been prevented from leaving their country by an anachronistic and repressive travel policy that has aptly been compared to a paper version of the Berlin Wall. The government's announcement Tuesday that it plans to end this inhumane system was long overdue and more than welcome.

Since soon after Fidel Castro came to power in 1959, Cubans who wanted to leave the island (which is slightly smaller than Pennsylvania) have been required to obtain an exit visa that is not only too expensive for the average citizen but often denied for arbitrary or political reasons. Under the new policy, scheduled to go into effect in January, those exit permits will be eliminated and Cubans will be allowed to travel abroad more easily, more inexpensively and for up to two years or more at a time. In turn, President Raul Castro hopes the country will receive more money in remittances from abroad, injecting much-needed capital into the anemic economy.

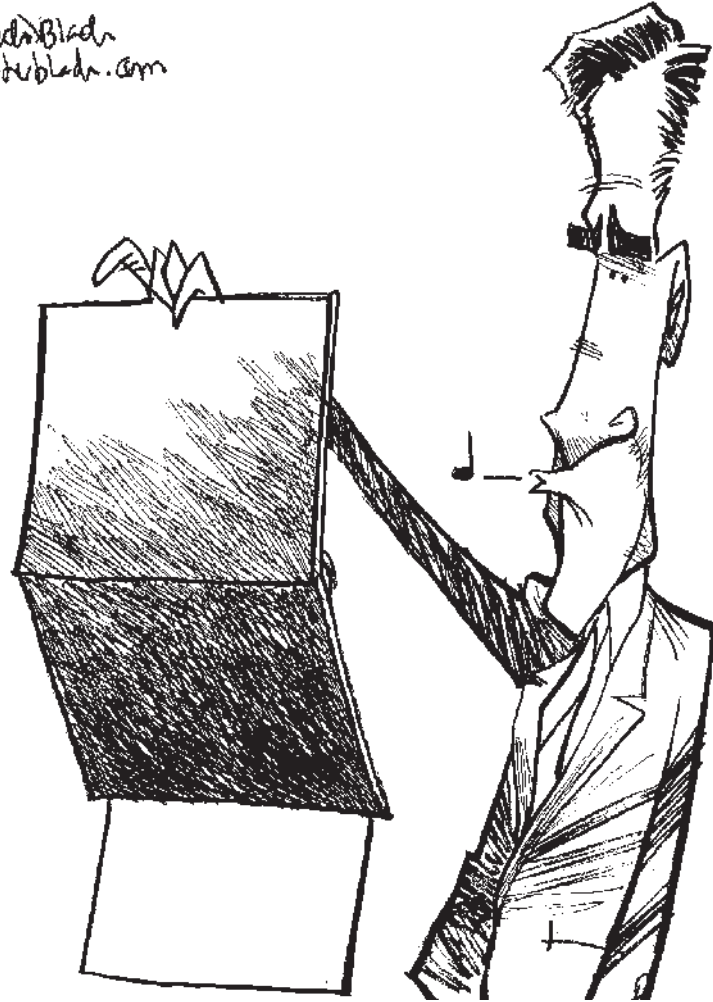
The new policy is not perfect. Cuba's government has already carved out exceptions. Scientists, athletes and other professionals will still be subject to the old rules in an effort to prevent a "theft of talents," otherwise known as a brain drain. Dissidents too could be kept from traveling under an exception for national security. And the new policy could spark a mass exodus similar to the Mariel boatlift of 1980, when thousands of Cubans took advantage of a brief loosening of the exit rules and fled the country.

While the new travel rules are less ambitious than they could be, they nevertheless represent a significant shift. The United States should respond by abandoning some of its own outdated Cold War rules. The Obama administration has already taken some steps in this direction, including relaxing restrictions on remittances and travel to the island. But it can do much more, including lifting the long-standing trade embargo, which is both archaic and ineffectual, and ensuring that visa applications from Havana are not subject to unnecessary delays.

Any change that grants Cubans greater freedom should be encouraged.

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KIRKOWIZ *on media bias*
Email: kirkowiz@bldr.com



Obama II

We all use our own set of glasses when looking at things, and though the U.S. mainland media adjudged the first of the presidential debates as "won" by Romney for being more assertive while Obama was too professorial and deferring, we never really conceded the point that Obama's deference was a liability rather than an asset. The charge was that Obama let Romney get away with pronouncements that could have been fact-checked had Obama been more "prepared."

In my view, deferring Obama goes further in my loyalty track than a combative Obama who might chalk up a round or two! Well, Round 2 billed as a high stakes rematch produced a more aggressive Obama and a feisty Romney, with the President gaining the upper hand this time on media polls and responses, having prepared to assert as much as he got dished, and more.

George Will, the respected columnist, who I read along with the late William Buckley, characterized the televised presidential debate as the best he had seen ever. He had seen all of them since Nixon v. JFK. Buckley and Will are hardly on the same political side of the proverbial aisle as I am, but the promise of the American democratic style is willingness to listen to those we do not agree with, and follow the spirit of the oft-quoted: "I may not agree with what you say, but I shall defend unto death your right to say it!"

We landed in the United States shortly after Lyndon Johnson got elected President. That election saw a consummate Democrat against a passionate conservative, Sen. Barry Goldwater of Arizona, as the GOP contender.

For five years in the '60s, we lived a Kentucky town south of Lexington that defensively dead ended to avoid the inroads of modernism; in filthy rich Highland Park where the John Birch society hung their banner across the street from my dorm; and Greensboro of NC's Piedmont where the Grand Wizard of the KKK held office.

Southern Democrats were, at best, condescending to shades of color, so I hung out with the young Republicans of the Romney-Rockefeller variety. Later, grandson John D. became a donkey in West Virginia, and Mitt Romney held the Cayman Islands in high esteem in Massachusetts.

I poured the brew with the few SDS members that hung out of the Student Union. My global sentiments found favorable hearing with the ragtag army of the disestablished and disenfranchised young. Bill Clinton of stinky socks (I was told), the whitest Negro out of Arkansas, came to Dallas to lead the Humphrey and later, the McGovern candidacies. I have voted Democrat ever since.

We write from northeast China where the Internet streaming coverage is virtually at a standstill, and the live TV broadcast is only available in the tourist-catering international hotels. We are at a university where English broadcasts are those of the State's CCTV9 and Singapore MediaCorp's NewsAsia, neither of which seem to have taken an interest in a live coverage. Our

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



info came in pieces.

In the debate, we have two contenders for the American political middle. A town meeting format lined up with undecided voters to ask the candidates their questions. Romney coming right-of-center, and Obama, from left-of-center, vied for increasingly independent non-party voters. Romney the accused bully glowed with empathy; deferring professorial Obama turned combative. Obviously, whoever has the sympathies of the American mean, the muddled middle, gets a majority of the popular vote. Of course, the archaic Electoral College has the final say, but the demise of its irrelevance is simply a matter of time!

For now, the rhetoric of the conserving dynamic in American politics is full of yearning to a return to a golden age that never was, whether it was in the celebrated genial demeanor of the great communicator Ron Reagan of recent past, or the provisions of constitutional individual rights of Madison and Jefferson at the creation. The metaphors of "government of the people, by the people, and for the people," enunciated by the great emancipator Abraham Lincoln, seems, nevertheless, missing.

No longer the utopian dream that will never be, of the reluctant politician and poet Eugene McCarthy, and the "all men (sic) are created equal" mythology ("the American revolution was about liberty, not equality," a colleague insists), most Democrats try to be 21st century practical and realistic decision makers, though in Obama's doe-C-doe, it looks more like a doe-C-C—one step forward and two steps backward.

Fortunately, the debate is sheer entertainment. The fringe protests their exclusion, which makes for drama of street theatre and tests the boundaries of existing legal restrictions.

On the domestic issues, the Republicans and the Democrats cling to the same cleavage, drum the same beat, and hang on to being No. 1 in the world, though articulating different hooks. The conservatives parade quantity—most \$\$\$ that remains the medium of global exchange, and eagle's coverage of instruments of mass destruction. Progressives adumbrate qualitative equality and equity. Obama and Romney are the tips of the iceberg representing fundamental directions.

In other parts of the world, former communists move to social democracy, and enlightened capitalists factor distributive justice into benefits. Which brings us to how the Obama and Romney major thrusts translate into foreign policy. That will be third round in Florida where normally the sun shines.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Q: Does fact-checking lend credibility to journalism?

Fact-checkers bode well for emerging 'new journalism'

By HANS PETER IBOLD
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

BLOOMINGTON, Ind.—Journalists who verify the assertions of public officials are doing their jobs and supporting democracy. Seems like a well-worn truism, right?

Not. This column joins a firestorm of recent comment on “the goddamn fact-checking thing.”

That’s how former New York Times public editor Arthur Brisbane reminisced about his role in the fact-checking fracas in a recent interview with Poynter.org.

A public editor column by Brisbane went viral at the start of the year, in part, because of its quirky request: “I’m looking for reader input on whether and when New York Times news reporters should challenge ‘facts’ that are asserted by newsmakers.”

Press and political blogs lit up in response, answering Brisbane with what seemed like a murmuring “huh?” followed mostly by indignation.

That was just one of many quibbles with what has lately been dubbed the “fact-checking movement” and the “Golden Age of fact-checking.”

Curiously, what everyone is calling “fact-checking” isn’t new. Fact-checking has always been fundamental to professional news work. Ask any veteran newsroom copy editor.

However, fact-checking does come with a twist today: computational power. Politifact.com, FactCheck.org, and their in-house newsroom cohorts are using powerful, new computer-assisted analytical and visualization software.

All that computational science in the hands of reporters may ring of snooty elitism. For fans of the HBO series “The Wire,” it may also conjure the drama’s relentless focus on “joking the stats,” the idea that facts and statistics can easily be woven into manipulative lies.

Instead, though, today’s fact-checking is bringing the public a little bit closer to news processes, exposing the purposes, methods and even the fallibility of journalism.

Today’s fact-checking is teasing out new norms, such as the recent emphasis on transparency and engagement. Journalists are asking questions like “What should we fact-check?” And, most legit fact-checking projects include background on how and

why the content was fact-checked, as well as any limitations of the approach.

It’s no secret that newsrooms need to cultivate new norms. American attitudes toward the news media have sunk to record lows this election season. A recent Gallup poll showed that 60 percent don’t trust the media’s ability to report news accurately and fairly.

Today’s news consumers aren’t averse to fact-based, statistically corroborated reporting. People dislike the news media now because there’s a little something out there for everyone to hate.

Gone are the days of a monolithic news media with a monopoly on the truth. New technologies—for better and worse—have enabled just about anyone to discover, create, share, personalize and react to news.

Today’s news consumers have gravitated to “news with a view” because it affirms personal values. In an era of information overload and complexity, news with a view can be clarifying and familiar.

Sure, it may come with high-octane, unverified assertions, but it’s perceived as credible because it comes with an unapologetic view, a person, a Sean Hannity, a Rachel Maddow.

We certainly don’t need more personality-driven news, more subjectivity, more emotional appeals, or more “he-said, she-said” journalism. Plenty of that to go around.

Fortunately, the fact-checking process has become a kind of provocateur, agitating debate about what responsible journalism does, doesn’t do, should do, shouldn’t do. Bring it on!

In the short run, this aggressive, transparent, data-driven political fact-checking may only earn more haters. It may scare off timid advertisers.

In the long run, it will help rouse reporters and reporting processes from sequestered newsrooms. It will lead to more community collaboration, to the defending of old news values that are worth saving and to the invention of pertinent new ones that no one has thought of yet.

This participatory approach to news can build trust in fact-based reporting.

And, rest assured, that trust will be needed when “social media fact-checking” kicks into high gear.

Hans Peter Ibold is an assistant professor of journalism at Indiana University.

Few voters pay attention to new breed of fact-checkers

By KARLYN BOWMAN
AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE

WASHINGTON—Fact-checkers from Politifact, FactCheck.org, and The Washington Post’s Fact Checker blog were out in force after the first two debates as they have been for much of the 2012 campaign season. Do Americans want journalists to assess the accuracy of debate claims, candidate speeches and TV ads?

Brooks Jackson, who heads FactCheck.org thinks so. He was quoted recently as saying: “In an age where the typical citizen is subjected to an avalanche of the kind of pure baloney that journalists used to keep out of the public discourse ... they are looking for journalists to be kind of adjudicators or referees. That’s what we try to do.”

The media’s job used to be to report the news—who, what, when and where. Their new role as adjudicators extends their warrant at a time that skepticism of the media is already sky high.

In a September Gallup poll, 60 percent said they had either “not very much trust or confidence” or “no trust at all” in the media to report the news “fully, accurately or fairly.”

It’s far from clear that Americans want the media to go into the uncharted waters of assessing candidate claims and counterclaims. A new poll from Annenberg suggests that around 9 percent of respondents have reported visiting a fact-checking site.

But a second and more fundamental reason for skepticism about the rationale for fact-checking operations is that they misunderstand how most Americans make decisions. I don’t know about you, but I haven’t read yet alone fully digested the 2,000 plus page Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act or listened to Fed chair Ben Bernanke’s four-part lecture series about the Fed and the financial crisis.

Nor have I spent hours on the candidates’

websites reading the fine details of their approaches to corporate taxation. Like most people, I suspect, I have general impressions of the candidates and their claims based on what they say themselves and on news reports.

Fact checkers seem to believe that factual information is the be all and end all in terms of public judgment. It’s not.

Here I am indebted to the great social scientist Daniel Yankelovich who wrote an essay about this years ago. While he wasn’t writing about fact-checking operations, his observations have broad application.

Yankelovich argued that journalists are the “chief drumbeaters for the importance of factual information.”

It’s not unimportant, of course, but it is not, in Yankelovich’s words, the “royal road to public judgment.” He

says that people form their opinions by weighing “what they hear from others against their own convictions. They compare notes with each other, they assess the views of others in terms of what makes sense to them, and about all they consult their feelings and values.

The public doesn’t distinguish between facts and values as journalists and social scientists do.” Yankelovich believes the public’s way of knowing has great validity for the important questions of our time.

Fact-checking fervor from news organizations is unlikely to have much impact on the credibility of journalism or on the public. The American people, without the assistance of fact-checkers, have a pretty good track record of arriving at sound judgments about who their presidents should be.

Karlynn Bowman is a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and a graduate of the University of Wisconsin.

Why make mule feed, when all you need is money?

By KEVIN HARRIGAN
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

There I was last Sunday morning, innocently reading the paper, when the presidential campaign reached out and dragged me back in.

I was trying to avoid political stories. A guy spends all week reading and writing about politics and talking to politicians, come Sunday he needs a break, or else his nose starts to twitch. So I turned to the business pages.

There I read that Ralcorp Holdings had appointed Keith Meister to its board of directors. Meister was described as a former lieutenant of Carl Icahn, the corporate raider fondly remembered in these parts for stripping TWA of its assets in the 1980s, helping shove it into bankruptcy. Every time a St. Louis airline passenger has to change planes in Dallas or Chicago, he can thank Carl Icahn.

“Corporate raiders,” like “arbitrageur,” is so 1980s-Ivan Boesky-Gordon Gekko. These days they call them “hedge fund managers,” or sometimes “private equity fund managers” or (less politely) “vulture capitalists.”

My nose started to twitch. Mitt Romney made his pile managing a private equity fund. Still, I kept reading.

Keith Meister, 39, having left Icahn’s firm a couple of years ago, now runs his own hedge fund, Corvex Management. It was started with \$250 million in seed money from George Soros, the bete noire of the right. Again my nose twitched.

Corvex has been buying a lot of Ralcorp’s stock. Imagine how happy Ralcorp’s executives must have been when Corvex’s ownership stake hit 5 percent and they had to offer Meister a seat on the board.

“Welcome to Seal Harbor,” they would say. “Glad to have you aboard, Mr. Shark.”

Meister has made no secret of the fact that he’s not particularly interested in the delicious private-label foods that Ralcorp manufactures. He’s in the business of making money, not off-brand peanut butter. He has suggested that the company sell itself off, merge with another company or otherwise “reallocate capital more efficiently,” as The Wall Street Journal put it.

“Reallocating capital more efficiently” is read in executive suites as “get your résumé updated.” Plants can get closed. Workers get laid off. However, investment banks make money doing mergers and acquisitions. The share price goes up and stockholders make money. This is modern-day capitalism in its purest, creative-destruction form: Nothing gets made but money.

Again, my nose started twitching.

Ralcorp is one of the fragments of what once was Ralston-Purina, a great old-school capitalist company. In 1893, young William H. Danforth, recently graduated from Washington University, got into the horse and mule feed game.

Thus was born Purina Mills. No Gilded Age lily, Will Danforth shoveled feed into bags himself. No tax incentives for him.

He bought from local growers. He traveled and sold and employed local men as millers and as drovers. He rebuilt after the Great Tornado of ’96 and two years later made a deal with Webster Edgerly, a whole-grains kook who called himself “Dr. Ralston” and his movement “Ralstonism.” The new company, Ralston-Purina, added human foods to the product line.

Service in World War I convinced Will Danforth that there was magic in the word “chow.” After the war, he insisted that his animal

feeds were animal chows. He adopted a red and white checkerboard pattern to reflect his “four-square” belief in balance among the physical, mental, social and religious aspects of life.

He built a great company and turned it over to his son. They employed tens of thousands of people, who raised families and retired on pensions. He made a great fortune. His grandsons, William H. Danforth II and John C. Danforth, now elderly men themselves, have given most of that fortune away to the great benefit of St. Louis.

These days most of your great tycoons don’t build things as much as they buy and sell them, employing fewer people more “efficiently” and enriching people like themselves who wouldn’t know which end of a mule to feed. In recent years, the financial sector has reaped 30 percent of the nation’s corporate profits.

Ralston-Purina spun off its cereal and people-food operations in 1994 to Ralcorp, which subsequently sold its name-brand cereal division and kept the private-label business. Purina Mills was sold in 1998, first to a company controlled by Koch Industries (again, my nose twitched) and then, after a complicated bankruptcy case, to Land O’ Lakes food. In 1999, the company spun off its Energizer Battery division. In 2001 Purina Pet Food was acquired by Nestle, S.A., of Vevey, Switzerland.






It could be argued that the country would benefit if public policy were focused more on building things and employing people, not on enabling those who swoop in to shoot the wounded. But then my nose would twitch.

Kevin Harrigan is a columnist for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Readers may write to him at: St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 900 North Tucker Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. 63101, or email him at kharrigan@post-dispatch.com.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲84 ▼79
Palau	Showers	▲85 ▼79
Yap	Showers	▲88 ▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲88 ▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲88 ▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲87 ▼81

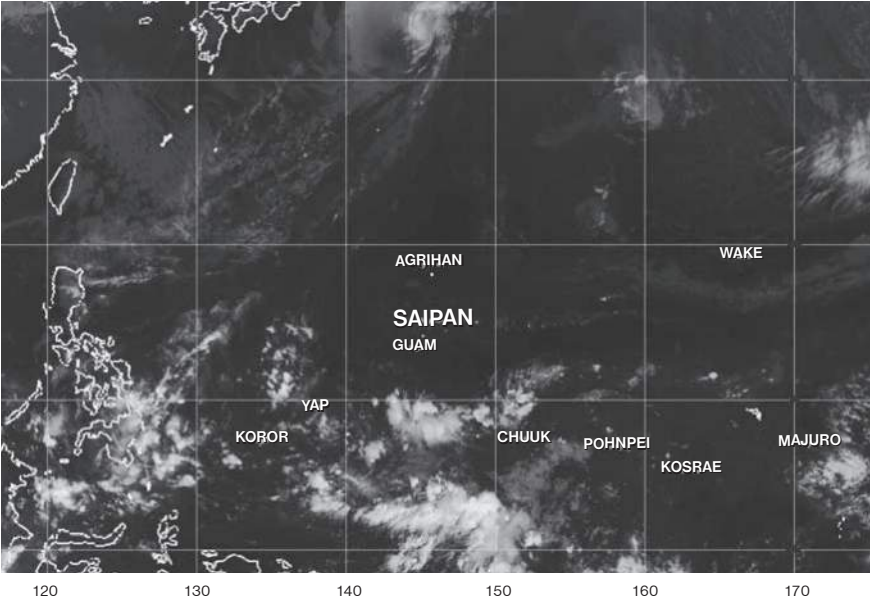
Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲64 ▼55
Beijing	Showers	▲60 ▼44
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲83 ▼74
Honolulu	Sunny	▲84 ▼75
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲57 ▼50
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲72 ▼60
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲88 ▼79
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲62 ▼50
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲85 ▼69
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲67 ▼46
Osaka	Sunny	▲74 ▼57
Paris	Showers	▲63 ▼54
Pusan	Sunny	▲72 ▼59
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲78 ▼59
Salem	Showers	▲56 ▼42
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲69 ▼54
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲71 ▼54
Tokyo	Sunny	▲72 ▼57
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲66 ▼48

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
6:00 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
1:09 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
6:40 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
11:21 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough meanders eastward from southwest of Koror at 2N130E through a broad circulation centered southeast of Yap at 5N143E to end southeast of Kosrae at EQ165E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found north of the trough near Koror within 80 miles of a line from 4N135E to 9N132E to 14N132E and also south of Yap to west of Guam within 75 miles of a line from 4N140E to 10N137E to 15N140E. Similar weather is also seen near the trough axis west of Chuuk to Pohnpei and Kosrae between the equator and 12N from 143E to 163E. A surface trough extends eastward from northwest of Butaritari at 5N170E through a circulation centered east of Majuro at 8N180 to well beyond the date line. Numerous showers and a few thunderstorms are present east of Majuro near the trough and circulation east of a line from 10N180 to 9N174E to 5N173E to 1N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:10 AM	5:54 PM
Sunday	6:10 AM	5:53 PM
Monday	6:10 AM	5:53 PM
Tuesday	6:10 AM	5:52 PM
Wednesday	6:11 AM	5:52 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:43 AM	10:23 PM
Sunday	11:39 AM	11:23 PM
Monday	12:30 PM	
Tuesday	1:17 PM	12:21 AM
Wednesday	2:01 PM	1:15 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPT 23, 2012									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)					ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5		UA5062	3:45am	5:40am	1, 3, 5	
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)					ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)				
UA5062	2:40am	3:15am	1, 3, 5		UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5	
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7		UA5062	2:40am	4:20am	1, 3, 5 via ROP	
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5		UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7	
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily		UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily	
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7		UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily	
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily		UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7	
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily		UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily	
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily		UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily	
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)					NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN				
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily		DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily	
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily		DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)					SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1		OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily	
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7		OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7	
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily		OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
SAIPAN (SPN)-PUSAN (BUS)					PUSAN (BUS)-SAIPAN (SPN)				
U2608	3:20am	6:35am	4, 7		OZ607	9:25pm	2:20am+1	3, 6	
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)					GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN				
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6		3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5	
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)					SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN				
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7		3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN		DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT	
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM	
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM		UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM	
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT		OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN	
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM		OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau		PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN		UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM		UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	
					UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM	
					OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)					HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN				
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN		OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN	
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7	
					OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 5 via GUM		UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM	
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN						
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana					ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)				

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Maharlika

UFO bids farewell to consulate officials, staff

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The United Filipino Organization recently held a farewell dinner for the officials and staff of the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan, the Philippine Overseas Labor Office, and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration to acknowledge the assistance and support they gave the Filipino community in the CNMI through the years.

The network of some 30 Filipino groups in the Northern Marianas treated the departing officials and staff of the three

offices to dinner at Ming Palace in Garapan on Oct. 12.

The consulate and its satellite offices on Saipan are scheduled to close down on Oct. 31.

Consul General Medardo G. Macaraig and Guam Consul Edgar Tomas Q. Auxilian joined about 20 UFO officers in last Friday's event that also welcomed the umbrella organization's newest member, Triskelion Tau Gamma Phi.

UFO president Bong Malasarte led the presentation of plaques of appreciation to the consulate and its two attached agencies for their over 23 years

of service.

"We are grateful to the Philippine Consulate General for the support, assistance, and friendship it has provided to our *kabayans* on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The Filipino community is indeed saddened by the Consulate's closure after Oct. 31," Malasarte told *Saipan Tribune*.

While the news of shutdown came as a disappointment, Malasarte noted that Filipinos in the Commonwealth have started to overcome the sadness and frustration that accompany the closure.

"That's a trait that we Fili-

pinos share as a people. We express our grief and then we move on. Life goes on," he explained.

UFO secretary Annamae Adaza said the consulate closure is not the end but "a new beginning for all Filipinos in the CNMI."

Friday's event, which took place days before Macaraig left for his next consular assignment in Malaysia, also served as an opportunity for the umbrella organization to express its support for the Guam Consulate General, which would take over the responsibilities of the Saipan

consulate.

"We assured Consul Gary [Auxilian] that the UFO is willing and ready to rally behind the Guam consulate. We need to work hand in hand to provide all Filipinos here with the services and support they need in these trying times," said Malasarte.

Adaza added, "The UFO officers and members are here to

assist the community within the organization's capacity, rendering services without expecting something in return in the name of volunteerism."

Both officers also called on the entire Filipino community to take advantage of the remaining days of the Saipan consulate to process their consular documents.

POLO, OWWA sell off properties in auction

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Philippine Overseas Labor Office and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration successfully sold off its properties in preparation for both offices' closure after Oct. 31.

The two attached agencies of the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan opened for inspection its office equipment and other properties until Oct. 4, and sealed bids were accepted until Oct. 8.

Officer in charge Julia F. Fabian said yesterday that they had an "overwhelming" turnout for the auction of computers, paper shredder, projector, tables and chairs, refrigerator, electric fans, a 1994 Toyota Tercel, and a 1999 Toyota Corolla, among others.

Fabian said a total of 125 bids

were received for POLO properties, while 81 were received for those of OWWA.

"We didn't expect that a lot of people will bid. We are now in the process of awarding the items to the successful bidders," Fabian told *Saipan Tribune*.

Among the successful bidders were three Filipino organizations that will carry on the programs of the consulate. They are the United Filipino Organization, Saipan Building and Fixing Computer Users Group, and Bayani Association.

OWWA earned close to \$800 from the bidding, while POLO's partial revenues are at \$4,000, Fabian said.

"Now that the bidding has ended, we completed one major task and we can focus on other important duties in relation to our closure after Oct. 31," added Fabian.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Consul General Medardo G. Macaraig and Guam Consul Edgar Tomas Q. Auxilian are flanked by officers of the United Filipino Organization during the farewell dinner hosted by the umbrella network of 30 Filipino groups in the Northern Marianas last Oct. 12 at Ming Palace in Garapan.

Construction work leads to a cherished dream

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Growing up in a family of builders and contractors, Juan A. Gacayan Jr. had his construction career carefully laid out before him.

"I learned the ropes of the trade by working alongside my father, Juan Gacayan, Sr.," he said in his native language. "As a contractor, he would utilize my services and those of my uncles and cousins and that's how I got exposed to the construction industry."

Gacayan, 55, is the founder and sole proprietor of JAG General Construction, a small-sized firm that has been providing structural, painting, iron work, electrical, and plumbing services in the CNMI since 2005.

A native of San Fernando City in La Union, Philippines, Gacayan received vocational education in a trade school in his hometown in addition to his hands-on training at his father's job sites.

He held various jobs in the Philippines, including as a mason, carpenter, and foreman. His last job in the country was as a maintenance staffer at Norma

Hospital in the northern Luzon province before fate brought him to the Northern Marianas.

Gacayan flew to Saipan in October 1985 after he was hired by Sablan Construction as a mason for 15 solid years. He then worked for GPPC from 2000 to 2002 before moving to Chargualaf & Associates from 2002 until 2009.

It was during his time at Chargualaf & Associates that Gacayan first thought about starting his own company.

"My employer then, Manuel Chargualaf, was a very kind and supportive boss. I helped him in his construction company. When he passed away, his son Robert took over the business and I assisted him as well," he said.

With his skills and decades of experience as his investment, Gacayan founded JAG Construction in San Antonio on May 9, 2005, and started accepting minor housing renovation projects on island, some of which were recommended by Chargualaf himself.

What began as a one-man team expanded in 2007 when Gacayan decided to hire three full-time workers to assist him. Around the same time, he also started his commercial cleaning business, which provides services to clients that they get

through referrals.

Gacayan disclosed that they started out with small projects ranging between \$2,000 and \$10,000 in cost, and these earnings would be used as revolving fund for the firm.

"Initially, it was enough to pay for operational expenses," he said. But Gacayan's perseverance, hard work, good reputation, and commitment eventually paid off, earning him job contracts not only with private individuals but also government agencies like the Public School System and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

His most recent project was with the Northern Marianas Housing Corp, which involved home construction at the Miha housing for a price tag of \$57,000.

Gacayan said his meager revenues enabled him to provide for his family. The father of three said his children are now successful professionals, the eldest being an accountant in the Philippines, the second and only son a computer technician in Saudi Arabia, and the youngest is involved in the textile industry in Singapore.

"I didn't go on vacations for long periods so I can send money back home and support my children's education," he said.

When asked if any of his



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Juan A. Gacayan Jr. is the founder and sole proprietor of JAG General Construction.

children were ever interested in a career in the construction industry, Gacayan said that his son did study building and construction but ultimately decided to focus on computers.

"That was his decision and I support him," he said.

Through his firm, Gacayan also was able to help his fellow Filipinos on island by providing jobs to eight.

Not everything has been a bed of roses for Gacayan and his business, as he continues to deal with several challenges like

economic woes, immigration issues, and federal tax payments.

"But regulations are regulations and as a business owner, I have to follow and obey," said Gacayan who is in the process of applying for an investor visa to allow him to stay lawfully in the CNMI. "I just hope we get more and bigger projects in the future so we can grow the company and help more people."

Gacayan said he has several plans for his small firm, one of them a long-overdue transfer from San Antonio to Kobler-

ville, which finally took place last March.

"Our new location provides better exposure for the business," he explained.

Gacayan encouraged the community to employ the services of JAG Construction, which provides building solutions and value-added services to all its clients and patrons. Visit the firm located along Tinaktak Drive in Koblerville within the area of Saipan Southern High School. For more information, call 288-5982 or 287-3140.

White House acts on denied claims of Filipino WWII veterans

By NIMFA U. RUEDA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LOS ANGELES—US President Barack Obama's administration on Thursday created a working group to look into the plight of Filipino veterans whose claims for benefits from their World War II service have been denied.

The group will "ensure that all applications receive thorough and fair review," said presidential assistant Chris Lu, co-chairman of the White House Initiative on Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders.

The White House announcement comes ahead of the November 6 national elections in which experts say that Asian-Americans—who voted overwhelmingly for Obama in 2008—could play a decisive role in close races.

More than 250,000 Filipinos fought for the United States during the war and were promised equal treatment as American veterans after the war.

But in 1946, the US Congress enacted the Rescission Act that took away full recognition of the Filipinos and stripped them of their benefits, leaving bitterness in the former colony and decades of campaigning to change US policy.

Weeks after Obama took office in 2009, Congress approved a stimulus package that included one-time payments of \$15,000 to Filipino veterans in the United States and \$9,000 to those living in the Philippines.

Lu said that 18,000 claims had been approved.

"However, we also have heard from many Filipino veterans who have been impeded from filing claims or believe their claims were improperly denied," Lu wrote on a White House blog.

PH records not accepted

Lu said the Pentagon, Depart-

ment of Veterans Affairs and the National Archives and Record Administration were setting up a working group to assess the issue.

"This is part of the Obama administration's ongoing efforts to honor the contributions of all veterans in their service to our country," he said.

Community advocates said thousands of veterans had their claims denied, usually because US authorities did not accept records from the Philippines which were the former fighters' sole means to prove their service.

Some aging veterans also said it was unrealistic to file their claims in time for the Feb. 16, 2010, deadline.

Promise should be kept

Democratic Representative Jackie Speier, whose California district has a large Asian-American community, welcomed the latest administration effort, but said that Congress needed to do more and give Filipino veterans the same benefits that others enjoyed.

"Filipinos were American nationals when they fought in the war and they were promised full benefits by President Franklin D. Roosevelt," she said in a statement.

"A promise made should be a promise kept. We have broken our promise and it's time to make amends," she said.

24k denied compensation

Advocates for Fil-Am veterans said more than 24,000 veterans were denied compensation and that the existing programs did not provide adequate coverage in many areas.

The disqualified veterans constitute 56 percent of the 43,083 surviving veterans who filed their claims under the

compensation fund, according to retired Major General Delfin Lorenzana, head of the Office of Veterans Affairs at the Philippine Embassy.

He said the US government had so far released \$223.7 million to 18,698 Filipino veterans from the \$265-million compensation fund.

Implementing guidelines

Lorenzana said the disqualification issue stemmed from the implementing guidelines issued in 2011. The guidelines require certification from the National Personnel Records Center that the names of veteran-claimants appear in both the Roster of Troops and the Discharge List prepared by the US Army at the end of the war.

"Unfortunately, the claims of a large number of Filipino veterans were not processed because their names appear only on one list or the other but not both," Lorenzana said in a statement released by the US Embassy. "What we are requesting the US government is for them to consider all sources of records and not just the two lists."

Lu acknowledged receiving complaints from the Filipino veterans "who have been impeded from filing claims or believe their claims were improperly denied."

He said the working group was created to address the issue.

Obama efforts welcomed

Fil-Am community leaders and the Philippine Embassy welcomed the Obama administration's efforts to help the veterans.

Art Garcia, national coordinator of the Los Angeles-based Justice for Filipino American Veterans (JFAV), praised the initiative as a "significant step to correct an injustice."

He said this effort was in stark contrast with the "rejection" they received from Republican Rep. Jeff Miller, chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, who denied their request for a hearing on a bill that would expand eligibility for veterans' benefits.

Garcia said he had received a call from Lu's office asking him and other leaders of veterans' groups to participate in a dialogue with the newly created interagency body.

"Thank you, President Obama," Cerritos Council

Member Mark Pulido posted on Facebook. Pulido said his post was "in remembrance" of his grandfathers, WWII veterans Jose Pulido and Alfredo Lagmay, and all those who fought during the war.

Full, not half, benefits

Philippine Ambassador Jose Cuisia Jr. thanked Lu for acting on the concerns of the veterans.

"We would like to assure our veterans that the Philippine government will continue to exert strong efforts to convince US authorities to

address the certification issue and grant them the benefits they deserve," Cuisia said.

Speier said: "Congress needs to act to ensure that Filipino World War II veterans and their families are entitled to full benefits and compensation for their service, not the negotiated half-settlement currently afforded to them."

Speier was author of the Filipino Veterans Fairness Act of 2011, which would make the Filipino veterans fully eligible to benefits received by all US veterans. *With a report from AFP*



BILATERAL TALKS

Philippine Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs Erlinda Basilio, left, greets Chinese Vice Foreign Minister and Special envoy Fu Ying prior to their annual talks in Manila, Philippines Friday, Oct. 19, 2012. Minister Fu is to meet top Philippine officials including a courtesy call with Philippine President Benigno Aquino III to discuss China-Philippines bilateral relations.

Stocks shine as Thais, Filipinos nurture stability

By PAMELA SAMPSON
AP BUSINESS WRITER

BANGKOK (AP)—The two Asian nations with the region's best performing stock markets in the past year are unlikely havens for investors: Thailand and the Philippines. Both are better known for troubled politics and natural disasters, but have outshone higher-octane neighbors as new leaders nurture relative calm.

The PSE benchmark in the Philippines has soared 29 percent in the last 12 months and Thailand's SET index is up a whopping 33 percent. By contrast, an index compiled by MSCI that tracks stocks in 12 Asian countries is up a ho-hum 2 percent. The Shanghai Composite Index in rising power China has sunk nearly 14 percent.

The Philippines, long regarded as an economic backwater blighted by a succession of deeply corrupt governments, has gained a measure of credibility due to the stability ushered in by the 2010 election of President Benigno Aquino III. Analysts credit him with boosting investor confidence by cracking down on corruption and living up to his promises of openness and good governance.

Thailand too has benefited from an improvement in its politics, although it's unclear whether the current stability will be enduring. The country seemed to be veering toward civil war in 2010 when deadly street battles raged in Bangkok between the army and loyalists of Thaksin Shinawatra, the populist prime minister ousted in a 2006 coup.

Local stock brokers were resigned to the Thai market lagging its potential but the landslide election victory in 2011 of a pro-Thaksin party and the popularity of the country's first female prime minister, Thaksin's younger sister Yingluck, have boosted confidence. Lately, Thai stocks have also got a fillip from big spending government policies that include efforts to overhaul flood defenses after a widespread inundation wrecked industry last year.

For both countries, the perception abroad that they have become a bit less risky has drawn renewed attention to their selling points.

One of the high notes for the Philippines is its newly minted status as a creditor nation, the first time in 40 years. Its foreign currency reserves total \$80 billion, while foreign debt is about

\$65 billion. Theoretically, the country could pay off all its foreign obligations and still have \$15 billion in cash left over, said Alfred Dy, head of Philippines research at CLSA Asia-Pacific Markets.

"It's the opposite of the countries in the West, where there's a lot of external debt," Dy said.

The country's accumulation of foreign exchange is driven by two sources: remittances, or money sent home to the Philippines by citizens who work abroad, and the dramatic growth in outsourcing.

The remittance trend began as early as the 1960s, when Filipino nurses traveled to the U.S. to work the night shifts at hospitals—hours that American nurses didn't want to work. Today, more than one in 10 Filipinos out of a population of 95 million lives abroad for work. They sent home \$20 billion in 2011—more than double the

amount in 2004.

The fact that they are spread across the world—in the Middle East, in America, throughout Asia—also spreads the risk if a particular region goes into an economic slump.

Meanwhile, a boom in business outsourcing, enabled by the high level of English proficiency in the Philippines and its young workforce, racked up \$14 billion in 2011—soaring from \$3 billion that was earned just seven years ago. The Philippines now rivals India as a global outsourcing giant.

These trends have insulated the Philippine economy from the export-reliant doldrums being experienced elsewhere in Asia.

"We don't rely as much as other countries on exports," Dy said. "It's really more of a service economy, it's sending people abroad and getting contracts on business outsourcing,

which makes the Philippines a bit unique."

"Even if the global economy slows down, we think these two items will be relatively resilient compared to traditional exports," he said.

In Thailand, the government's drive to boost investment and growth after massive flooding decimated industry last year has helped to make it a favorite of stock investors.

Thailand's economy shrank 10.7 percent in the last quarter of 2011 after the country's worst flooding in more than half a century disrupted operations at more than 1,000 factories, bringing the country's key automotive and computer parts industries close to a halt.

But ever-resilient Thailand is bouncing back. The Asian Development Bank predicts Southeast Asia's second-biggest economy will grow 5.2 percent this year and 5 percent in 2013.

Samu't Sari



CLOSE UP SUMMIT

Education officials led by Board of Education chair Marylou Ada and Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, along with keynote speaker Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), pose for a group photo during Wednesday's opening of Close Up Youth Summit at the Saipan World Resort. About 60 high school students from private and public institutions participated in the event that aims to provide youths a better understanding of governance and the legislative process.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



GETTING SMART ABOUT CREDIT

Kagman High School's Personal Finance Class meets with Bank of Hawaii's Herminio Matsumoto and Joanne Aldan in celebration of "Get Smart About Credit Day." The purpose of the presentation was to enhance student awareness about issues concerning financial literacy and consumer credit management.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Bernadita A. Sablan, fondly known as Bernie, ended 25 years of service with the CNMI Superior Court on Oct. 12, 2012. She is shown here with, from left, associate judges Perry B. Inos and Kenneth L. Govendo, Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja, and associate judges David A. Wiseman and Joseph N. Camacho.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations on your wedding day, Shawn and Vanessa! May your lives be filled with more love and blessings! Greetings come from the WIC staff, especially the 12:30 buttercups.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Belated happy birthday to our sister/auntie, Doreen Teregeyo Laniyo! God bless you always, Do! We love you and may you have many more birthdays to come! Greetings come from the entire *familia*, most especially L.J. Boy and Lisa.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to our sister/auntie, Lani "Selena Boom-boom" Laniyo! God bless you always, Lan! We love you and may you have many more birthdays to come! Greetings come from the entire *familia*, most especially L.J. Boy and Lisa.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to our fluffie Sweetie "Hunny/Sweetie Pie" Soakau! God bless you always, sis, and may you have many more birthdays to come! We love you! Greetings come from the Chinatown and Laluso familias, most especially Kay, Ando, April, L.J. Boy, and Lisa.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to Logan Jace Ngeskebei Daniel! May you have many more birthdays to come! We love you very much. Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy, Marissa, friends, and family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to Tomtom Litulumar Dela-Cruz! God bless you always, Tomtom! We love you and may you have many more birthdays to come! Greetings come from your brother L.J. Boy and sister Lisa.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy 8th birthday to Sebastian Bernardo! Greetings come from Daddy, Mommy, and Tete.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Gasoline prices—finally—begin to slide

NEW YORK (AP)—Gasoline prices have begun their seasonal slide.

Better late than never, drivers say.

The national average retail price has fallen for ten straight days and is now \$3.74 per gallon. It could mark the beginning of the usual autumn decrease that was delayed this year because of refinery problems and high oil prices.

Tom Kloza, chief oil analyst at the Oil Price Information Service, predicts drops of 5 cents to 15 cents per week for the next three weeks. Over the next several weeks the national average could be at or below where it was last year.

"There's some nice relief coming," he said.

It can't come soon enough

for Mary Hess, who commutes 40 miles each way from her home in Sodus Point, N.Y. to Oswego, N.Y., where she teaches English. She hasn't noticed much of a drop—she's still paying \$4.04 per gallon to fill up her Buick Century. Gasoline is among the biggest parts of her budget—and she doesn't think it should be.

"I'm frustrated more than anything," she said.

Gasoline prices typically decline in the fall as refiners switch to cheaper fuel blends and drivers take a break from road trips. This year a series of refinery and pipeline problems sent gasoline supplies plummeting. That sent wholesale gasoline buyers and traders scrambling to purchase whatever they could, at ever higher

prices, to secure supply.

"It was a cluster of random coincidental events and the buying had a panic nature to it," Kloza said.

Gasoline prices were already steep—they were on track to set an annual record by mid-summer—because of relatively high global crude oil prices. Brent, the type of crude most important in determining the price of gasoline, has averaged \$112 per barrel this year. Global oil demand is on track to set a record this year despite economic uncertainty. And the standoff over Iran's nuclear program has raised fears that oil supplies could be disrupted if tensions escalate.

Against that backdrop, the nation's gasoline infrastructure got slammed.

Newsweek to cease print edition after 80 years

NEW YORK (AP)—Newsweek will end its print publication after 80 years and shift to an all-digital format in early 2013.

Its last U.S. print edition will be its Dec. 31 issue. The paper version of Newsweek is the latest casualty of a changing world where readers get more of their information from websites, tablets and smartphones. It's also an environment in which advertisers are looking for less expensive alternatives online.

Newsweeklies have been in an especially tough spot at a time when people don't want to wait a week to read commentary and news digests of big stories, given a flood of instant content available online.

The announcement of the change was made Thursday by Tina Brown, editor-in-chief and founder of The Newsweek Daily Beast Co., and Baba Shetty, its CEO. Job cuts are expected.

"In our judgment, we have

reached a tipping point at which we can most efficiently and effectively reach our readers in all-digital format," Brown and Shetty said on The Daily Beast website.

Newsweek's decision does not come as a surprise. Barry Diller, the head of the company that owns Newsweek, announced in July that the publication was examining its future as a weekly print magazine. Diller said then that producing a weekly news magazine in print form wasn't easy.

Newsweek isn't the first to drop its print product. US News & World Report dropped its weekly print edition years ago and now focuses on the Web and special print editions, such as a guide to best graduate schools. SmartMoney announced in June that it was going all-digital. Dow Jones & Co., a unit of News Corp., said at the time that 25 positions at SmartMoney

would be eliminated.

Brown said staff cuts at Newsweek are expected, but didn't give a specific figure. She also said that Newsweek's editorial and print operations would be streamlined in the U.S. and abroad.

Newsweek's print edition has been losing relevancy over the years as readers flocked to new, digital sources for news. It did become a conversation piece last month when a cover essay, "Muslim Rage: How I Survived It, How We Can End It," spawned a huge response on Twitter. Newsweek had invited Twitter users to write about the subject using the hashtag "MuslimRage." But most people, many of them Muslim, mocked the subject instead of adopting the article's serious tone. Newsweek, for its part, took the jabs in stride and said its covers and hashtags spark debate on big topics.

Leaders agree to have ECB supervise all euro banks

BRUSSELS (AP)—European Union leaders agreed early Friday to create a single supervisor for banks in countries that use the euro—without saying when it would become fully operational.

The deal, reached at a summit of EU leaders in Brussels, represented a shaky compromise between the Germans and French, who had been tussling over how to shore up the eurozone's stricken banking system—one of the main causes of Europe's debt crisis.

France has been pushing to get all 6,000 banks in the 17 euro countries under the supervision of one European body by the end of this year. Leaders agreed in June that, once a supervisor is in place, struggling financial institutions would be able to tap

Europe's emergency bailout fund, the European Stability Mechanism, directly.

At the moment, money to help put banks has to go through a country's government—placing more strain on state finances. In Ireland's case, the government's attempts to rescue failing banks forced it into a bailout. Some fear Spain could face that fate, too.

But Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel, wary of using taxpayers' money to prop up other countries' banks, had tried to put the brakes on the plan, insisting that creating the supervisor should be done slowly and that "quality must come before speed."

"We need an efficient supervisor because otherwise the markets won't take us seriously," she said after the agreement

was reached.

The compromise included something for both—all 6,000 banks will be included, as France had wanted. But there is no firm deadline for the single supervisor to be up and running—other than to say that the "objective" is to finish the legal framework by Jan. 1, and that work on its operational implementation "will take place during the course of 2013."

"It is not because you vote on a law that you have the whole logistic framework in place the day after," said Van Rompuy.

Despite the lack of a deadline, French President Francois Hollande declared victory and presented a much more ambitious timeline than his colleagues, claiming the supervisor could be up and running within weeks or months of Jan. 1.

Nation

A night of humor—after day of campaign criticism

NEW YORK (AP)—President Barack Obama on Thursday rejected criticism that his administration has offered a confused response to the attack on the U.S. Consulate in Libya, an accusation made repeatedly by Republican challenger Mitt Romney in their campaign for the White House. Of any breakdown that might have led to the killing of four Americans, Obama declared: "We're going to fix it."

On a campaign day where the politics of comedy were to flavor the presidential race, Comedy Central host Jon Stewart got serious in pressing Obama over the government's changing explanation about the Sept. 11 attacks in Benghazi. When Stewart suggested that even Obama would concede his administration's coordination and communication had not been "optimal," Obama



President Barack Obama talks with Jon Stewart during a taping of his appearance on "The Daily Show with John Stewart", Thursday, Oct. 18, 2012, in New York.

said: "If four Americans get killed, it's not optimal. We're going to fix it. All of it."

Romney has pointedly questioned Obama's handling of the matter and his honesty about it to voters. Those accusations led to the fiercest conflict of the presidential debate on Tuesday and will surely come to the fore

again on Monday in the campaign's final debate.

Appearing in a taping of Comedy Central's "The Daily Show," Obama insisted information was shared with the American people as it came in. The attack is under investigation, Obama said, and "the picture eventually gets filled in."

Gunman kills 3, self in Florida salon shooting

CASSELBERRY, Fla. (AP)—A gunman opened fire at a central Florida beauty salon Thursday, killing three women and wounding the manager, who had asked for a restraining order against him, police said. After the rampage, the gunman went to a friend's house and killed himself.

Authorities said the shooting was part of a domestic dispute, but did not elaborate. The gunman, identified by police as Bradford Baunet, was served with a domestic violence injunction Oct. 9 and scheduled to be in court Thursday for a hearing with the salon's manager, Marcia Santiago. Their relationship was not immediately clear.

About two hours before the hearing, Baunet, 36, entered Las Dominicanas M & M Salon in Casselberry and started shooting, police spokeswoman Sara Brady said. Two women hid inside a bathroom and one ran outside through a back door.

Santiago, 44, was in serious condition at a hospital. She was shot five times, according to her ex-husband, William Ayala, who spoke to her sister. Ayala said he had a daughter with Santiago and the girl lived with him.

"I heard he was violent and had a criminal record," he told The Associated Press.

Records in Florida and Rhode Island show Baunet has been previously arrested

for domestic assault, felony assault, stalking, burglary and drug possession.

Police identified two other victims as 52-year-old Gladys Cabrera, a customer and 29-year-old Noelia Gonzalez-Brito, a salon employee. Authorities did not immediately identify the fourth woman who died.

Shortly after the shooting, about two dozen mourners gathered near the salon, located in a strip mall. Police taped off the parking lot and officers stood guard outside the business. Yellow paper covered up some of the glass windows. A Dominican Republic flag hung in the storefront along with a neon sign that read: Hair Cut. Color. Perm.

ACROSS THE NATION

Ariz. mom of missing boy convicted of lesser count

PHOENIX (AP)—An Arizona woman whose infant son vanished nearly three years ago avoided what could have been a lengthy prison term of nearly 30 years after a jury failed to reach a verdict on the most serious charge against her, instead convicting her of a lesser count of unlawful imprisonment Thursday. The verdict means Elizabeth Johnson now faces a sentencing range of two to nine years, despite being suspected in the Christmastime 2009 disappearance of her then-8-month-old son, Gabriel. The child has never been found. Johnson's attorney Marc Victor even said he would try to seek probation for his 26-year-old client, noting she already has spent nearly three years in jail. No sentencing date has been set.

Social media sensation dies of cancer at age 13

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Lane Goodwin, a small-town boy who won a huge Facebook following for his thumbs-up attitude about his cancer, has lost his battle with the disease. The 13-year-old Kentuckian died Wednesday night,

eliciting an outpouring from his heartbroken followers. The announcement of Lane's death came on his Facebook page, which had 369,000 followers as of Thursday. The announcement said the boy from Beech Grove who loved fishing and soccer had "gained his angel wings." University of Kentucky basketball coach John Calipari was among the many whose thoughts and prayers were with Lane's family.

Tallest man in US gets custom-made tennis shoes

ROCHESTER, Minn. (AP)—It was a tall order to fill, but the tallest man in the United States now has his own custom-made tennis shoes. Igor Vovkovinskiy (voh-kov-IN'-ski) stands just over 7 feet, 8 inches tall. He's long struggled to find shoes for his size 24, 10E feet. But the 30-year-old Minnesota man received three custom-made pairs Thursday from Reebok that took five months to make. As he tried on a pair, he said it felt as if he were "walking on pillows or mattresses." For as long as he can remember, he's had one pair of shoes. He says he's had 16 foot surgeries in six years because of damage caused by ill-fitting shoes.

Asia

Persecuted Hazaras flee Pakistan; some die trying

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—As he knelt in prayer to mark one of Islam's holiest days, Ali Raza Qurban saw a childhood friend and dozens of others die in a suicide attack on their Shiite mosque. Sunni militants were again targeting minority ethnic Hazaras in this city of narrow streets and wide-open hatreds.

Qurban decided it was time to leave. He found an agent who would hook him up with a smuggler in Indonesia and, for \$8,000, get him to Australia.

But he never made it to Australia. He disappeared on Dec. 17, 2011, aboard an overcrowded, rickety wooden boat that capsized within hours of leaving the Indonesian shore.

Four months had passed since the suicide bombing at the mosque in Quetta, where the violence has spawned a vibrant human smuggling business. The smugglers operate out of small, unidentified shops. Selling promises of a safe and better life in Australia, they largely capitalize on the fear and desperation of the Hazara, a largely Shiite community that is facing attacks not only here but in neighboring Afghanistan.

In Quetta, Shiite leaders say



In this Thursday, Sept. 6, 2012 photo, a relative of ethnic Hazara, Ali Raza Qurban, holds his portrait in Quetta, Pakistan.

many of the attacks against Hazaras are carried out by the Sunni militant group Lashkar-e-Janghvi, which they contend is backed by elements within Pakistan's intelligence agency, the ISI. Pakistan's Chief Justice

Iftikhar Chaudhry and a panel of three judges last month ordered authorities to investigate allegations that vehicles illegally imported by the ISI were used in suicide bombings targeting Shiites.

China's navy drills amid isles dispute with Japan

BEIJING (AP)—China flexed some maritime muscle in its dispute with Japan over a chain of uninhabited islands, holding naval exercises in the East China Sea on Friday to demonstrate its ability to enforce its territorial claims at sea.

Both countries have been displaying their naval prowess during an unexpectedly bitter dispute over the islands, called Diaoyu in Chinese and Senkaku in Japanese. Tokyo angered Beijing last month by nationalizing some of the islands, in a move that sparked violent protests in China.

Nearby Taiwan also claims the islands, which are uninhabited but surrounded by rich fishing grounds and possibly lucra-

tive undersea energy deposits.

Friday's exercise involved 11 vessels from the East China Sea fleet and eight aircraft and will be coordinated with the marine surveillance agency and the fishery administration, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

The drills focused on patrol tactics and responses to emergencies that threaten China's territory, it said. State TV footage showed a frigate, a fighter jet and some helicopters participating. It showed the vessels and aircraft operating near shore, not on the high seas or close to the disputed islands.

Xinhua said patrol vessels from the fishery administration and the marine surveillance agency have recently been stalked and ha-

assed by foreign vessels while carrying out missions.

On Tuesday, Japanese military aircraft spotted seven Chinese warships not far from the disputed islands. China said the ships were on a routine training mission.

On Sunday, Japan's navy marked its 60th anniversary with a major exercise involving about 40 ships—including state-of-the-art destroyers, hovercraft able to launch assaults on rough coastlines and new conventionally powered submarines. For the first time, Japan's navy was joined by warships from the United States, Singapore and Australia. Representatives from more than 20 countries, including China, attended the event staged in waters south of Tokyo.

Pakistan held, freed militant before girl's attack

KHAR, Pakistan (AP)—One of the two Taliban militants suspected of attacking a teenage girl activist was detained by the Pakistani military in 2009 but subsequently released, intelligence officials said Thursday.

Malala Yousufzai, 14, was shot and critically wounded on Oct. 9 as she headed home from school in the northwest Swat Valley. The Taliban said they targeted Malala, a fierce advocate for girls' education, because she promoted "Western thinking" and was critical of the militant group.

The military detained Attaullah and several of his associates during the army's 2009 offensive in Swat because of suspected ties

with the Pakistani Taliban, which had established effective control over the valley at the time, said two intelligence officials. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

The military successfully pushed most of the militants out of Swat, but Attaullah was released because of a lack of evidence linking him to specific attacks, said the officials. It's unclear how long he was held.

Authorities have detained several of Attaullah's family members in Swat, but he remains at large, said the officials.

It's possible he could have fled to neighboring Afghanistan. The

Taliban have said the attack on Malala was planned by the head of the Swat Taliban, Maulana Fazlullah, and his deputies, who escaped to Afghanistan following the military offensive in 2009.

The shooting of Malala outraged people around the world and stepped up pressure on the Pakistani government to intensify its fight against the Taliban and their allies. But Pakistani leaders are divided on whether the government should respond by targeting the Taliban's last major sanctuary in the country along the Afghan border. Pushing into the North Waziristan tribal area could trigger a backlash of attacks elsewhere in Pakistan.

World

In Syria, Sunni rebels besiege Shiite villages

BEYANON, Syria (AP)—Anyone who tries to slip out of the Shiite villages of Zahraa and Nubl is risking his life. Sunni rebel snipers stand ready to gun down anyone who dares. Roads are blocked with barricades and checkpoints.

For more than three months, Syria's rebels have imposed a smothering siege on the villages, home to around 35,000 people, maintaining they are a den of pro-regime gunmen responsible for killing and kidnapping Sunnis from nearby towns.

The bitterness and reprisals between neighbors illustrate how the civil war has torn apart the longtime coexistence among ethnic and religious groups in Syria. And it points to the perils of sectarian divisions that lie ahead for the nation of 21 million as the war worsens.

Zahraa and Nubl make up a small pocket of Shiites, mostly regime loyalists, in this over-

whelmingly Sunni region in the northern countryside of Aleppo province. The siege has its roots in months of tensions since the Sunni-led revolt against President Bashar Assad began in March 2011. Sunnis in the area say pro-regime gunmen, known as Shabiha, operated from the two villages, attacking nearby towns as they rose up against Assad.

The violence fueled a cycle of tit-for-tat killings and kidnappings and tore apart the social fabric between the sects.

Then in July, rebels overwhelmed most of Aleppo province, driving out government forces and taking control of the region's towns and villages. The tables were turned: Many Assad loyalists fled to Zahraa and Nubl for refuge, and the rebels clamped down their siege, seeking revenge.

Perhaps more than anyone, Bashar al-Hajji feels the impact of the rift. A native of Beyanon, a Sunni village of

5,000 across the main north-south highway from Zahraa and Nubl, he's the only Sunni in town who's married to a Shiite. His wife of five years is from Zahraa.

"I am caught between the two sides," said al-Hajji, a 28-year-old mechanic who is not just Sunni but follows the sect's most conservative school, Salafism.

His wife's family shuns him and is persistently telling her to leave him and come home to Zahraa.

"They know that I am a Salafi, and they think it is permitted for me to kill Shiites," said al-Hajji, sitting in the yard of the family's home in Beyanon.

"Well, if this is the case, I don't have to go far to kill one," he said, nodding toward his house.

Al-Hajji limps from a gunshot wound he suffered in February, when a gang of Shiites from Zahraa beat and kidnapped him.

Libyan Islamist denies role in Benghazi attack

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—A Libyan Islamist militia commander who a witness and officials say helped lead the deadly assault on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi said on Thursday that he was at the building that night, but denied he was involved in the attack.

Ahmed Abu Khattala, who describes himself as a founder and commander of the Islamist militia Abu Obaida Bin Jarrah, told The Associated Press by telephone that he went to the consulate in the eastern Libyan city on Sept. 11 to rescue men that he had been informed were trapped inside.

Abu Khattala said that, despite reports of his involvement, he had not been questioned by Libyan authorities and was not in hiding, and that he was going about his daily business as a construction con-

tractor in Benghazi.

U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans died in the attack. It has become an issue in the U.S. election season, with Republicans accusing the Obama administration of being slow to label the assault an act of terrorism early on, and slow to strike back at those responsible.

U.S. officials' accounts of the night include assailants storming the compound and setting its buildings aflame, American security agents taking fire across more than a mile (kilometer) of the city, the ambassador and three employees killed and others forced into a daring car escape against traffic.

A Libyan witness interviewed in the aftermath of the attack by the AP said that Abu Khattala was present di-

recting fighters. The witness spoke anonymously for fear of retaliation.

An AP reporter was also shown a camera photo of a long-haired, long-bearded man who was wearing the Afghan-style robe favored by many radicals and whom other Benghazi residents identified as the 41-year-old militia leader. The consulate's gate with barbed wire could be seen in the background.

The New York Times has quoted unnamed Libyan officials as singling out Abu Khattala as a commander in the attack, calling him a leader in the hardline Islamist Ansar al-Shariah militia. Other Libyan witnesses say they saw Ansar al-Shariah trucks mounted with heavy weapons outside the consulate the night of the attack.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iraq presses US for faster arms deliveries

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's prime minister pressed for faster deliveries of weapons to help arm his country's military during a Thursday meeting with a senior U.S. defense official. Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki made the request during talks with U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Ashton Carter in Baghdad, according to a statement by the Iraqi leader's office. Al-Maliki said Iraq needs to beef up its defenses to protect the country's security and national sover-

eignty, and to tackle terrorist groups that continue to threaten Iraq's stability more than nine years after the U.S.-led invasion.

Navy to go after rats, mold in Gitmo legal offices

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba (AP)—Legal offices that are so contaminated with mold and rat droppings that lawyers in the Sept. 11 terrorism trial have been getting sick will get a full clean-up and be evaluated by safety experts, a military official said Thursday. A

"comprehensive" cleaning of the offices, which are primarily used by defense teams in the Guantanamo Bay tribunals, will begin by the end of the month and be finished in time for a hearing scheduled in December, said Army Capt. Michael Lebowitz, one of the prosecutors in the case of five prisoners charged in the Sept. 11 attacks. "It's almost like a fresh start," Lebowitz told the case judge, who has been fielding complaints about the offices this week while presiding over a pretrial hearing at the U.S. base in Cuba.

Young Style

NEW YORK (AP)—Hey mom and dad: Halloween's not really all that scary—except when it comes to traffic safety.

Despite warnings about tainted candy, candle fires and even child abductions, real Halloween headlines are rarely about any of those things. Instead, tragedies related to the holiday typically involve trick-or-treaters hit by cars. Fortunately even those accidents are relatively few in number.

And here's something that might surprise you. A study published in 2010 in the Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics found that the most emergency room visits involving children around Halloween are related to sports.

The report stated nearly 18 percent of injuries on Halloween were to the finger and hand, and a third of those were lacerations, with some likely resulting from pumpkin-carving. But the report added that "a much higher proportion of injuries that occurred on Halloween were associated with sports, including football and basketball, than with knives."

Which is not to say parents should spend Oct. 31 relaxing. (Are parents ever allowed to relax?) Obviously, you need to know where kids are, monitor candy hauls, and make sure they can see out of their masks and won't trip on their costumes. But here are some statistics to provide a reality check on what's really scary about Halloween.

TAINTED CANDY: URBAN LEGEND VS. REALITY

Of course you should examine goodies and make sure kids avoid treats that aren't sealed.

But know this: "There isn't any case of a child killed or injured from a contaminated treat picked up in the course of trick or treating," according to Joel

Halloween risks: Cars, sports (not tainted candy)

By **BETH J. HARPAZ**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Best, a professor at the University of Delaware who has extensively researched the subject.

Best says there have been more than 100 reports of tainted treats going back to 1958, but they include a father who poisoned his child to collect insurance money, incidents where someone gave out booby-trapped goodies but nobody was injured, and cases where kids had food allergies.

CAR ACCIDENTS

According to statistics from the U.S. Department of Transportation, in four out of six years between 2006 and 2010, more pedestrians under the age of 21 were killed by cars on Oct. 31 than on Oct. 30 or Nov. 1.

The numbers are small: A total of 16 deaths took place on Oct. 31 during those five years, compared to 11 on Oct. 30 and 10 on Nov. 1.

But a quick survey of news stories from 2011 suggests that traffic safety on Halloween is one area where parental vigilance is warranted. Last year, children and teenagers trick-or-treating or heading to Halloween parties were injured or killed in Salt Lake City, Las Vegas, Egg Harbor Township, N.J., Port Bolivar, Texas, Lower Allen Township, Pa., and Colorado Springs, Colo. Most cases involved pedestrians hit while crossing streets or walking along roads; one case resulted



A girl uses her iPad to photograph a pumpkin carved with the theme of the movie "Halloween" while viewing illuminated jack o' lanterns at the Roger Williams Park Zoo in Providence, R.I., Monday, Oct. 8, 2012.

in a drunk driving arrest. In another case, parents were injured along with their child.

One way to increase pedestrian visibility on Halloween: Have kids carry a flashlight or glowstick, or add glow-in-the-dark necklaces or reflective tape to costumes.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR CHILDREN ARE?

Statistically it's rare for children to be kidnapped by strangers, but it seems like there's always a case in the news. In the last few weeks, a girl was found murdered in Colorado and another child was abducted, then found, in Wyoming. So it's understand-

able that Halloween makes parents nervous, with kids out after dark, sometimes unaccompanied by parents, often approaching

strangers to ask for candy. Obviously parents should keep track of kids, stay in touch by cell phone with teens, and

FIRE AND DEVIL'S NIGHT

Candles are often used for spooky decor and to light pumpkins. Be mindful if kids in billowy costumes are nearby.


But the fact is, according to Dr. John Hall, division director of the National Fire Protection Association, "there is no localized spike in reported fire injuries around Halloween."

In past years, there has been a phenomenon called "Devil's Night," especially in the Detroit area, of arson at abandoned properties. A 2005 report from the U.S. Fire Administration noted that "on Halloween, and the night before, incendiary and suspicious structure fires are about 60 percent more frequent than on an average day." But the number of fires has been decreasing thanks to community and police patrols and other efforts. In 1984, more than 800 fires were started in Detroit during the Halloween period, compared to 169 in 2010 and 94 last year.



This Oct. 5, 2012 file photo shows a Halloween display in a front yard of a residence during the windy weather in Pembroke, N.Y. Despite warnings about tainted candy, candle fires and even child abductions, real Halloween headlines are rarely about any of those things. Instead, tragedies related to the holiday typically involve trick-or-treaters hit by cars. A study published in 2010 in the Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics found that the most emergency room visits involving children around Halloween are related to sports.

FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT



† Carmen Olopai Taitano

Born to life on March 25, 1938 and was called to her eternal rest on October 12, 2012.

The family of our beloved Carmen O. Taitano wishes to thank all friends and relatives for all their generous prayers and loving condolences during the family's time of sorrow and bereavement.

Funeral Service is scheduled today Saturday, October 20, 2012. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. at Mt. Carmel Cathedral.

We offer up our prayers, thanksgiving and love to God through Jesus Christ, with the intercession of our blessed Mother Mary and all the angels and saints.

Olomwaay, SI Yu'us Ma'ase & Thank you all

Patrick O. & Jane L. Taitano and all in the family

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

LOOSE ENDS! You are asked to complete seven longer words by the addition of a three-letter word to each of the letter combos provided at right. Ex., in posar at left, try "are" and get share, fare, tare, stare, care, mare — but alas, there is no such word as smare. Therefore, try another word.



SH F L
T T S
ST S
C M D
SM P
SC

Words "fill" and "out" will comply, respectively. Other answers may change.

Four times six bits (\$7.50) is three dollars, so he gets two dollars change.

BIT SKIT! If Bixby pays six bits per bit for four bits for his drill, how much change does he get from five bucks? Answer in 60 seconds.

Answers may vary.

DISPATCH WITS FOR 9-COUNT

EACH of the two posers presented above requires insertion of numbers 1 through 9.

That is to say, you are asked to see how quickly you can insert these numbers in a manner that is in keeping with the following results:

A. That each of the three-number rows of the square — across, down, and two diagonals — totals 15.

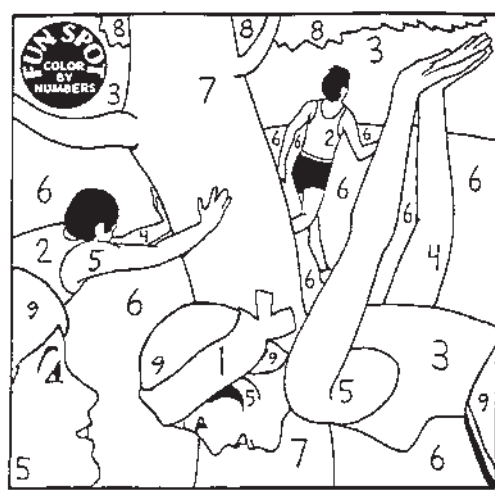
B. That each of the four-number sides of the triangle totals 20.

Remember, all nine numbers are to be used in each instance.

Answers may vary.

Answers: Across: 8, 10, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

TOTE BAG! What is it that the farmer is toting above? To find out, draw connecting lines from 1 to 2, 3, etc.



WARMING UP! S-t-r-e-t-c-h those muscles to run that race. Add colors: 1—Red, 2—Lt. blue, 3—Yellow, 4—Lt. brown, 5—Flesh tones, 6—Lt. green, 7—Dk. brown, 8—Dk. green, 9—Black.

Answers may vary.

SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words:

LATCHKEY

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters.

Try to score at least 50 points.

Possible answers: They, lack.

Answers may vary.

Answers: Across: 8, 10, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

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Life & Style

Civil trial opens against Britney Spears' parents

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears' former confidante was made a scapegoat for her mental breakdown despite efforts to keep the singer from using drugs, his attorney told a jury Thursday in a case against the pop superstar's parents and conservators.

Attorney Joseph Schleimer told the panel that Sam Lutfi was trying to help the singer but lost control in a series of events that led to her being hospitalized and placed under a court-ordered conservator. Lutfi is also seeking a share of the singer's fortunes, claiming he had an agreement to serve as her manager in exchange for 15 percent of her earnings.

Springsteen explains why he's supporting Obama

NEW YORK (AP)—After vowing not to get involved in this year's presidential election, Bruce Springsteen is supporting Barack Obama again, saying he believes Obama is the best person to lead America.

The Boss posted a message on his website Wednesday night endorsing Obama's re-election, saying he had been "getting asked a lot about where I stand."

Springsteen made his debut on the 2012 campaign trail Thursday at an event in Parma, Ohio, with former President Bill Clinton. He will also be at an event in Ames, Iowa.

Springsteen supported Obama in 2008. In his letter, he called Obama's four years in office "a really rough ride" because of the "economic chaos" from President George W. Bush's administration and "the extraordinary intensity of the opposition."

But the 63-year-old rock star said he's behind Obama because of the president's views on the rights of women and gays, ending the war in Iraq and tracking down Osama bin Laden.

"Right now, there is a fight going on to help make this a fairer and more equitable nation. For me, President Obama is our best choice to get us and keep us moving in the right direction," he wrote.

Springsteen said Obama, who is facing Republican rival Mitt Romney in November, needs increased support from Congress if America wants the next four years to be effective.

"He needs support in the Congress, where some sterling candidates, such as current Senator Sherrod Brown of Ohio, challenger Elizabeth Warren in Massachusetts, and so many others, are fighting to make their constructive voices heard," he wrote.

Schleimer conceded the case would be a complicated one. His opening statements included flashing photos of Spears with a shaved head and striking an SUV with an umbrella. He said one of Lutfi's first actions after being hired as manager was having drug-sniffing dogs search the singer's hilltop home.

"My client was made a scapegoat for drug abuse and erratic behavior of Britney Spears," Schleimer told the jury, most of whom knew of the singer but hadn't followed her career or personal troubles.

Schleimer claimed Spears favored amphetamines and that the dogs turned up a substance the Grammy-winner told Lutfi was probably crystal meth.

"He was terrified of being her manager when she overdosed," Schleimer said.

Jurors likely won't hear directly from the singer, who remains under a conservatorship overseen by a judge who has ordered her not to appear for trial or a deposition. Superior Court Judge Susan Bruguera told Schleimer during a break that all the accusations he raised during his opening statement should be supported by evidence that will be presented at trial.

Schleimer said he would prove them through either "testimony or documentary evidence."

Attorneys for Spears' parents and conservators will have their own opportunity to present opening remarks to jurors Friday afternoon when the

Court: Smith case judge wrongly tossed convictions

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An appellate court said Thursday a trial judge erred in dismissing conspiracy convictions against Anna Nicole Smith's psychiatrist and manager at the end of a contentious trial centering on celebrities' use of prescription drugs.

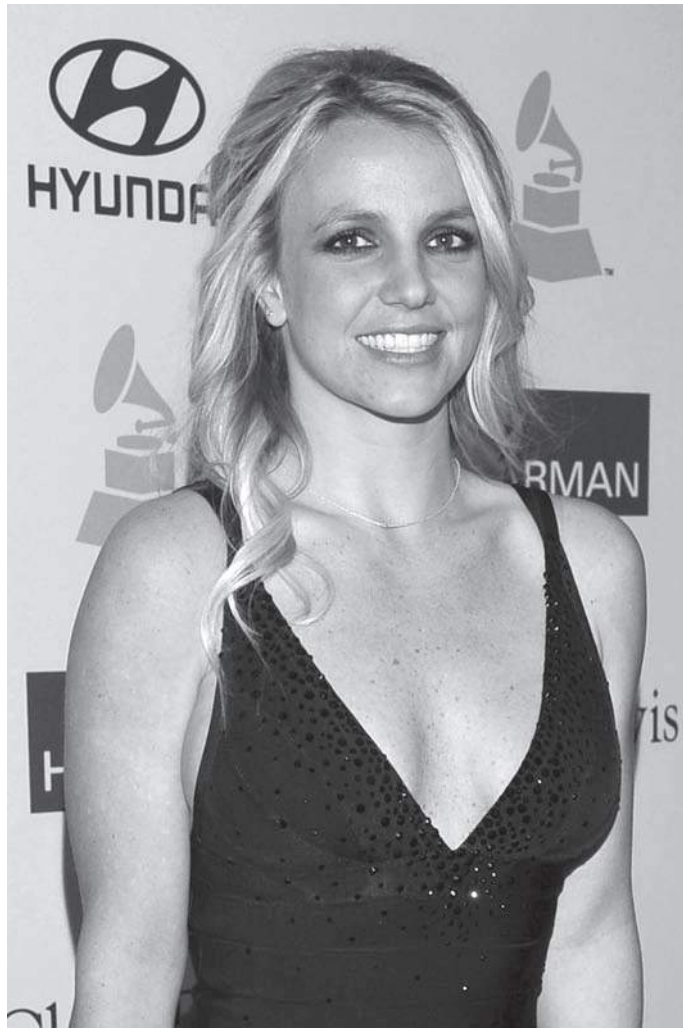
The ruling came after Superior Court Judge Robert Perry chose to throw out the 2010 jury verdict that manager Howard K. Stern and psychiatrist Khristine Eroshevich conspired to obtain prescription drugs for the troubled model by using false names.

The judge found it was not unusual in the celebrity world Smith inhabited for fake names to be used to protect privacy.

Ann Romney says no more campaigns if they lose

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney's wife says her husband will not run again if this race doesn't turn out the way they hope.

Ann Romney told ABC's "The View" Thursday that it was "a very hard thing" to put



In this Feb. 11, 2012 file photo, singer Britney Spears arrives at the Pre-GRAMMY Gala & Salute to Industry Icons in Beverly Hills, Calif.

trial resumes.

Lutfi and Spears' parents, Jamie and Lynne, both sat in the audience as Schleimer made his opening statements to the panel of eight women and four men. Jamie Spears did not look up at the photos of his daughter that Schleimer displayed.

Lutfi is seeking millions of

dollars from Spears and her family, claiming her mother's book lied about him drugging and isolating the pop superstar. He is also seeking a portion of the singer's profits, claiming he was a key player in her 2007 album "Blackout" and had the right to serve as her manager for years.

for insufficient evidence is wrong. But he could get to the same place by reviewing the case as what we call a 13th juror."

Brunon said he would have to do additional research to understand the potential implications.

Attorney Steve Sadow, who represents Stern said it was clear from the decision that Stern cannot be tried again without double jeopardy violations. But he said Perry could again review Stern's motion for a new trial.

"If he granted the motion, Howard still could not be tried again," Sadow said.

Sadow said the appeals court obviously had been wrestling with the issue of double jeopardy and had the parties brief it several times.

neys' son Josh, who was asked about brother Tagg's joke after this week's contentious debate that he wanted to "take a swing at" President Barack Obama. Josh Romney said as someone who's been slapped by Tagg, he can assure Obama he has nothing to worry about.

Teen's online sweetheart may not be who he says

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I'm 13, and a few weeks ago I met a guy online, got his number and we texted—a lot. Before I knew it, we were flirting up a storm.

He lives in Tennessee and I'm in Texas. He's the same age as I am, so I don't see anything wrong with liking him, even if he's so far away. We have decided not to date until we have a chance to meet each other in person.

The problem is, I feel like I love him. He doesn't call me "hot," he calls me "gorgeous." He doesn't call me "Babe," he calls me "Angel." He listens to me when I have a problem and gives me sweet advice.

Yes, I know I'm young and love is supposed to come later in life. Yes, it seems shady that I met him online and we have never talked face-to-face. I know I might be mistaking love for infatuation—I've heard all this before. But I trust this boy to be faithful and supportive of me.

How can I tell if I love him or not? Should I cut off contact with him? Is it OK to feel the way I do?

TEENAGE GIRL IN A DREAM

DEAR TEENAGE GIRL: I'm all for young love, but before plunging in, I think both parties should know with whom they are having the pleasure. Has it occurred to you that because you met this person online and have never spoken face-to-face that he might NOT be who he says he is?

The person you have described may not be a teenage boy in Tennessee. He could be an adult man (or woman) ANYWHERE. He doesn't communicate in the language most teens of today use. He doesn't call you "hot," he doesn't call you "Babe." He is using terms that someone much older would use.

Personally, I think you should take a giant step backward until you AND a more experienced adult in your life learn more about him. Adults who carry on online romances with 13-year-old girls are called predators for good reason.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend of four years, "Taylor," and I are opposites in that I like to be on time and he is generally late. We usually work this out by leaving for an event I choose at the time I want, and leave for his friends' gatherings when he wants.

My problem is leaving for the airport when we travel together. We use public transportation, which takes 45 minutes, but things can go wrong and make it longer.

Taylor would like to leave so we arrive at the airport 45 minutes before our flights. This causes me a lot of stress because security lines can be long and I'm afraid of missing our plane. We have had to run through airports in order to avoid being left behind.

I'd like to be at the airport an hour and a half before flight time to be safe. Taylor hates waiting in the terminal when security is light and thinks we could be doing other things with our time. Please save me from our next argument and tell us who is right.

FRAZZLED TRAVELER IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR FRAZZLED: You are. Better to be safe than sorry, especially when you have nonrefundable tickets. I have been on flights when seats were given to standby passengers because the ticketed passenger was held up for some reason. There are worse things than having to kill a half-hour at the airport. Missing your flight is one of them.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

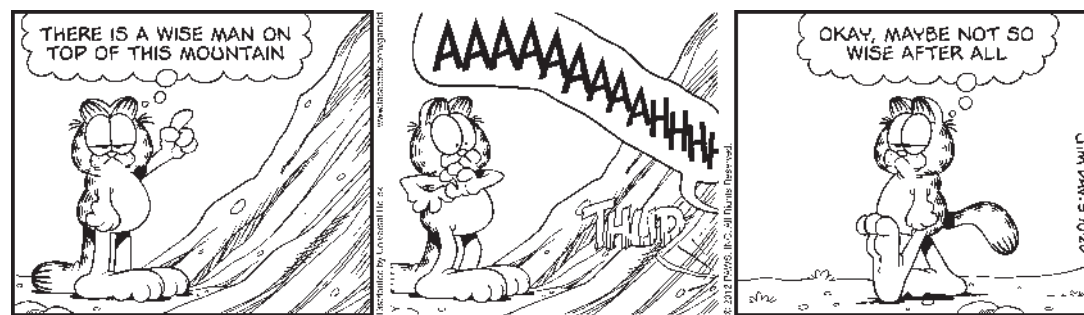
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



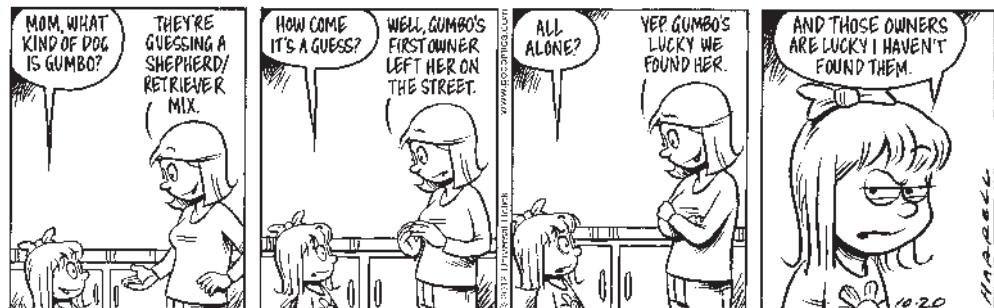
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



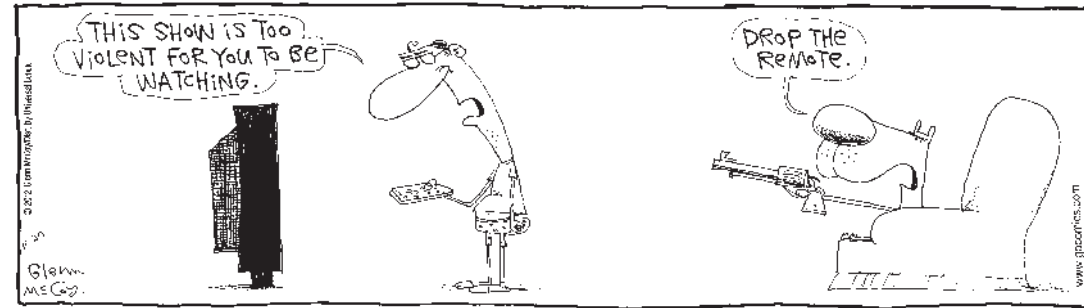
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Rebuff a masher
5 Whip
9 Vanna's cohort
12 Twosome
13 Reverberate
14 Center
15 —
16 Part of Q.E.D.
17 "Monty Python" opener
18 Egg container?
19 Symbol of intrigue
20 Hoofbeat sound
21 Mound stat
23 Sib
25 Like wet snow
28 There
32 Pot
33 Of service
34 Construction pieces
36 Prepares to propose

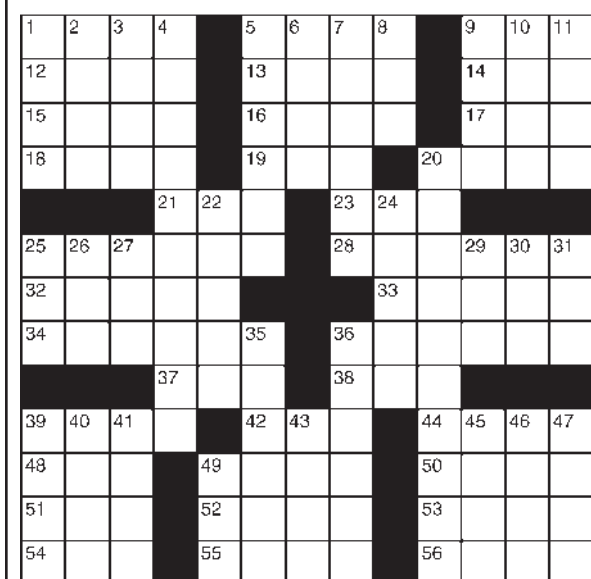
DOWN

37 Bottom line
38 Egos' counter-parts
39 Crooked
42 Under the weather
44 "G.W.T.W."
48 Regret
49 Verbal
50 Enthusiastic, plus
51 "All the Things You —"
52 Exhaust-pipe
53 Undressed
54 Pantheon member
55 Unoriginal one
56 Ball-bearing items
22 Lyricist's specialty
24 Circular
25 Take to the slopes
26 U.K. pol. party
27 Multi-purpose truck
29 Conk out
30 Right angle
31 Scale members
35 Rouse
36 Strikingly effective
39 Boast
40 Continental coin
41 Requisite
43 Like some excuses
45 Chills and fever
46 Took the shuttle
47 Quite some time
49 Son-gun link

Solution time: 27 mins.

O	H	C	Y	A	N	C	A	S	E
F	R	I	R	A	G	A	U	P	O
F	A	D	E	A	W	A	Y	P	E
E	R	N	S	B	O	X	E	D	
O	S	A	G	E	D	U	E	L	
D	E	W	S	B	A	R	N	A	C
D	E	A	B	L	I	N	D	A	I
S	P	Y	G	L	A	S	S	A	S
C	A	N	O	E	S	E	R	A	
O	R	E	O	H	A	T	H	A	W
M	E	R	V	O	B	O	E	A	G
B	A	D	E	G	A	P	E	Y	O

Yesterday's answer 10-20



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5951! 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: John Krasinski, 33; Snoop Lion, 41; Viggo Mortensen, 54; Tom Petty, 62.

Happy Birthday: Let strength and courage lead the way. Dedication and loyalty will pay off. Unique ideas will help you secure your position and build a brighter future. Added discipline will help you reach your goals. The use of strategy coupled with intuition will make an impression on someone who can make a difference in your life. Your numbers are 3, 13, 20, 27, 36, 44, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Emotional issues will surface, holding you back. Let go of any negativity directed toward you and you will advance. Accomplishment will come from openness, dedication and believing in your abilities. Excess and entitlement must be avoided. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Finish what you start. Travel or take a course if it will bring you closer to your goal. Showing backbone, taking action and doing your own thing will help you establish your position. Love is highlighted. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Show off your attributes and what you have to offer. Your creative input will grab someone's attention who is willing to contribute. A partnership may not run smoothly, but it can be beneficial if mutual respect is maintained. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A change of pace will help you show your capabilities and invite new opportunities to advance. Learning as you go along will be considered an at-

tribute, as will a willingness to take advice and put it to good use. Love is in the stars. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let negative people hold you back or ruin your plans. You must distance yourself from anyone who is bringing you down or standing in your way. Don't take on responsibility that doesn't belong to you. Say "no" to unrealistic demands. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take advantage of a life-changing opportunity. Look at the possibilities and what it will take to make a move that allows you to accept a challenge. Legal issues may arise, but experience coupled with advice will help you make the best choice. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't depend on others. An emotional episode will develop if you or someone you are close to decides to make a drastic change. A past friend, colleague or partner will have some sound advice for you. A creative idea you have will attract interest. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Being secretive, mysterious and dedicated will make you very intriguing to the people you deal with. You don't have to play games, but your courage will shine through, making you very desirable. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't allow aggression to take over just because things don't go your way. Stick to what you know and do best, and make alterations to your living arrangements that suit your needs. Focus on your sanity and emotional and physical wellness. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't lose sight of past experiences and you'll avoid making an impulsive mistake. Concentrate on your talents and strengths and putting what you do best into motion so you can reach your goals. Romance should be on your agenda. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You cannot hide from telling the truth. Express the way you feel, what you want to see happen and get on with your life. A change based on past occurrences will enable you to build a brighter future. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Equality is necessary if you want to reach an agreement. Lay your thoughts out clearly, and ask questions that will help you recognize what's expected of you in return. Financial gains can be made if you join forces with someone you love. ★★★★★

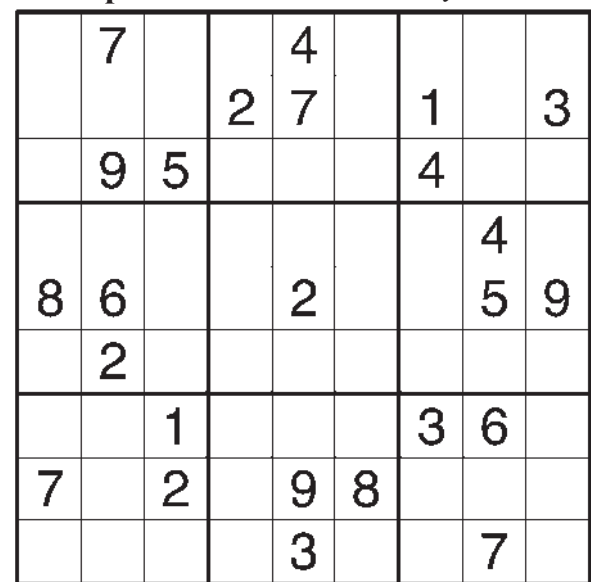
Birthday Baby: You are receptive. You think and follow through. You are progressive and productive.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



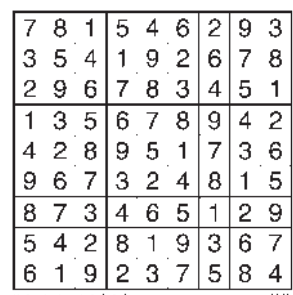
Difficulty Level ★★★★★

10/20

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

10/20

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

REMEMBERING COMMODORE PERRY

Solution: 11 letters



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Advocate, Africa, Anchor, Belt, Calbraith, Chippewa, Coal, Commodore, Demands, Diplomat, Docked, Erie, Expeditions, Father, Flag, Hook, Japan, Lake, Land, Lawrence, Lead, Little, Matthew, Navy, Newport, North Carolina, Peace, Perry, Ports, Provider, Sailor, Sandy, Sarah, Save, Seal, Served, Shark, Ships, Steam, Tabasco, Tampico, Trade, Treaty

Yesterday's Answer: Vietri sul Mare

The NFL's Fantasy Football season is under way. To help you get started, we've compiled a list of 100 words that are likely to appear in the game. Find them and circle their letters. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



HOCUS-FOCUS



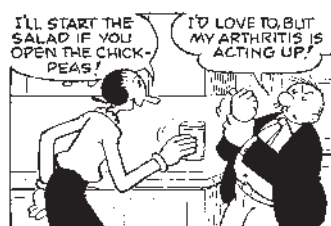
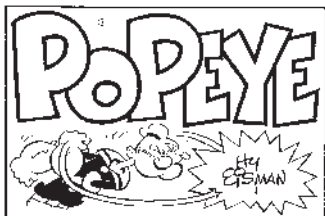
CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

Wishing Well®

3	5	8	6	7	8	4	8	7	4	6	7	5
F	N	Y	B	T	O	B	U	A	E	E	K	E
8	6	2	3	6	3	4	3	5	7	2	6	8
E	S	A	E	E	E	G	L	W	E	C	L	N
4	7	4	5	3	5	6	7	8	4	3	4	7
E	A	N	T	I	H	F	F	R	E	N	R	I
6	8	5	4	6	7	4	2	4	8	6	3	7
R	I	O	O	E	R	U	H	S	C	L	G	M
3	2	8	5	3	7	5	6	8	5	8	6	2
S	A	H	U	R	S	G	I	O	H	T	A	N
3	6	5	2	8	2	5	6	8	7	3	7	8
U	N	T	G	H	E	S	T	E	T	N	A	R
7	2	7	8	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2
N	O	D	S	F	D	H	E	O	E	M	P	E

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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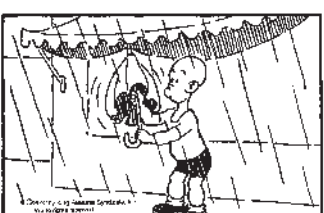
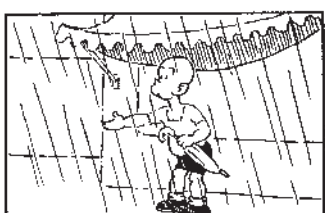
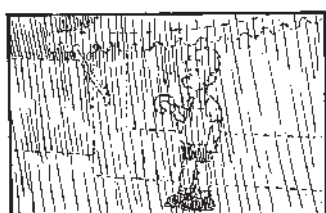
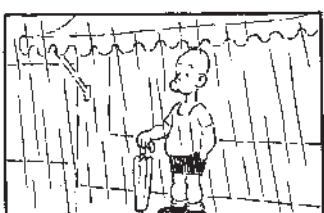
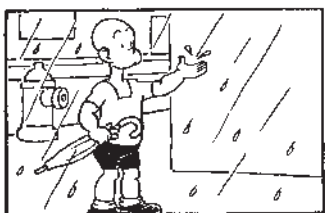
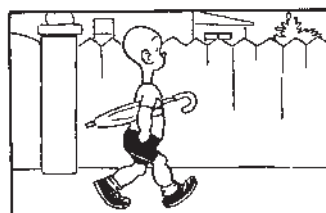
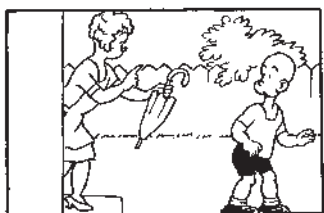
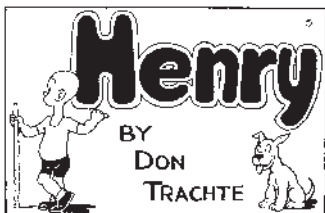
They'll Do It Every Time

by Al Scaduto



ABSENT-MINDED NICE SAYINGS FOR WRONG OCCASIONS...

THANK TO W. FORLANGER, HOUSTON, TEX.



Super Crossword REVERSAL

ACROSS

- 1 One- (short shows)
- 7 Practice of staying in one's birthday suit
- 13 Comes into view
- 20 Skier's lodge
- 21 Ancient Greek city
- 22 A few
- 23 Furrier's philanthropic family from Texas?
- 25 Height
- 26 Music Muse
- 27 Member of the mimosa family
- 29 "The Divine Comedy" poet
- 30 Sight-related
- 33 How heavy a British Conservative is?
- 35 For each
- 39 Stray
- 42 Matt Dillon portrayal James
- 43 Crew creating protective car parts?

- 45 Dir. opposite NNE
- 47 Serious
- 48 By (alone)
- 51 Coming into existence
- 57 Pertumes ceremonially
- 59 Letters for Old McDonald
- 61 Certain boat propeller
- 62 Leth of labor
- 65 Dale where beans are grown to make a cathartic oil?
- 67 Chief Norse deity
- 68 Poet Neruda
- 72 Slow, on a music score
- 73 Jar tops
- 74 Decorate an infant's bed with images of celestial bodies?
- 77 Most polar
- 79 Fish enticers
- 80 Juliet's beau
- 81 Pierre of fashion
- 84 Wise guy
- 86 Rich fabric with raised designs
- 88 Crawls (with)

- 92 Chinese menu "General"
- 94 Slight imperfection on an entry blank?
- 96 Utters
- 101 Worthy to be given a title
- 104 Jump
- 105 Legal wrong committed by a gobbler?
- 107 Novelist
- 109 Utah's Hatch
- 110 Most twisted
- 113 Willa Cather's "My —"
- 118 Carbon 14 or uranium 235
- 120 Rush angrily at a longtime South Carolina senator?
- 123 Like ailments that can be remedied
- 124 Group of nine things
- 125 Legume seed holder
- 126 Time in court
- 127 Give consent

- 128 Tennis star Williams
- DOWN
- 1 Advil target
- 2 — En-lai
- 3 Stretched
- 4 Besides that
- 5 Goes back
- 6 Plug in a tub
- 7 Secretive
- 8 Pkg. shipper
- 9 Input info
- 10 Camaro — Z
- 11 Layers
- 12 Team animal
- 13 Elia writing
- 14 Ran into
- 15 Dodging sort
- 16 Keep
- 17 Filth
- 18 Rare — (elements #57 to #71)
- 19 Rains cold pellets
- 24 After-tax
- 28 Infuriates
- 31 "What have — to deserve this?"
- 32 Dwarf planet in the asteroid belt
- 34 Drink in a sippy cup
- 35 What sit-ups strengthen

- 36 — up with
- 37 "— Little Teapot"
- 38 Earthquake origination point
- 40 Corp. execs
- 41 "— Dark Stranger" (1946 film)
- 44 Corps.
- 46 Horse sound
- 49 Fine thread
- 50 Lavish party
- 52 Health facility
- 53 Lying in the same straight path
- 54 "Dallas" miss
- 55 Requisites
- 56 Rendezvous
- 58 Neck area
- 60 Cyclotron
- 62 Sheep coats
- 63 Tight as — pellets
- 64 Sign before Scorpio
- 65 Software programmer
- 66 Nothingness
- 69 Parcel units
- 70 Sis sibling
- 71 Young sheep
- 75 Marshall Plan pres.
- 76 Shower sponge
- 78 Lemon, lime, or orange

- 81 "Cheers" barmaid
- 82 Madison Avo. workers
- 83 Abodo: Abbr.
- 85 — bitsy
- 87 Corn holder
- 89 Takeoff stat
- 90 Livy's 1,150
- 91 — wolf
- 93 — about (roughly)
- 95 Exercises utilizing bars
- 96 Impassive sorts
- 97 Go after
- 98 Typos, e.g.
- 99 Japanese police dogs
- 100 Obi-Wan — ("Star Wars" role)
- 102 Comes up
- 103 Volcano in E. Sicily
- 106 11- or 12-year-old
- 108 Jacuzzi user's sigh
- 111 JVC rival
- 112 Low card
- 114 Actor Sharif
- 115 "Ixnay"
- 116 Privy to
- 117 "— pinch of salt"
- 119 Al Fatah gp.
- 121 West of film
- 122 QBs' scores

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11	12		13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20							21							22							
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123									124							125					
126									127							128					

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: Where are the Balearic Islands located?
2. ANATOMY: Where is the ulna located in the human body?
3. ANCIENT WORLD: Who kidnapped Helen of Troy, an event that started the Trojan War?

4. LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "Light in August"?
5. HISTORY: In what year was the first Zeppelin flight?
6. INVENTIONS: What did Elisha Otis invent?
7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:

- Where is original Mayo Clinic located?
8. U.S. STATES: In what state is Mount Rushmore located?
9. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of ducks called?

10. RELIGION: What is a more common name for the religious group called United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing?

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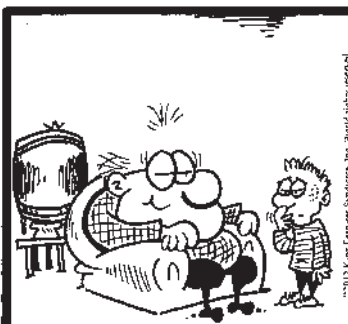
1. Mediterranean Sea
2. Forearm
3. Parts
4. William Faulkner
5. 1900
6. Elevator safety brake
7. Rochester, Minn.
8. South Dakota
9. A gaggle
10. Shakers

Saturday's Answers

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20						21						22						
23						24						25						
26								27			28			29				
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47						48				49	50		51		52	53	54	55
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62	63	64						65					66					
67					68	69	70	71		72					73			
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79						80					81	82	83					
84						85			86		87				88		89	90
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96	97	98	99	100			101	102	103				104					
105						106					107		108					
109						110				111	112		113			114	115	116
118						119					121	122						
123										124					125			
126										127					128			

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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DPA CAR MART
We're buying '95 & Up used cars!
Transaction only within 30 mins.

Call 287-8688 or visit
DPA CAR MART in San Antonio

QQ RENT A CAR
Starting as low as... **\$29.99**
without Insurance
Call: 233-8855, 483-8866 or 233-8866
\$100 Security Deposit Required
Garapan • Susupe • San Antonio
Some conditions may apply

WHATZIT Solution:
Right under your nose

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used cars Year 2003 & up and Truck. Good condition. We pay cash! Call 287-7676.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. \$250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. \$450-\$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime security. \$450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. \$600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. \$550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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REGISTERED NURSE (1 POSITION)

- Must pass NCLEX-RN and current CNMI RN License
- Attended a hemodialysis training program.
- Must hold a degree in Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- One to five years hemodialysis experience or related field
- English language Skills - Proficient in verbal, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- Certified Nephrology Nurse (CNN) - Preferred
- In-service train with Baxter phoenix machine.
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system.

Interested applicants must submit applications or resume to
St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc., at Chalan Kiya, Saipan.

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Tigers rout Yankees for ALCS sweep



DETROIT

(AP)—Prince Fielder waved his arms frantically, gleefully calling off his teammates while the crowd at Comerica Park roared.

From the moment the big first baseman signed his massive contract in January, an entire city had been waiting for a chance to celebrate like this. After another dazzling effort by Detroit's starting pitchers and another soaring home run by Miguel Cabrera, Fielder caught the final out to send the Tigers to the World Series—with a sweep of the New York Yankees, no less.

"There's still a long way to go but this is an awesome feeling," Fielder said.

Max Scherzer capped a stupendous stretch for Detroit's rotation, and the Tigers won their second pennant in seven years by beating the Yankees 8-1 Thursday for a four-game sweep of the AL championship series.

Cabrera and Jhonny Peralta hit two-run homers in a four-run fourth inning against CC Sabathia, who was unable to prevent the Yankees from getting swept in a postseason series for the first time in 32 years.

"Yeah, we did it," Cabrera said. "It's an unbelievable feeling. ... Four more wins, guys. Four more wins."

Scherzer took a no-hit bid into the sixth against a starting lineup that was again without Alex Rodriguez, who flied out with two on in the sixth as a pinch hitter.

Austin Jackson added a solo shot in the seventh for Detroit, and Peralta hit another homer an inning later.

The game ended with Fielder, Detroit's \$214 million acquisition, catching Jayson Nix's popup. The Tigers spilled onto the field for a celebration that began near second base and eventually moved closer to the third-base line.

General manager Dave Dombrowski hugged Jim Leyland—who is in the final year of his contract—while owner Mike Ilitch rubbed the 67-year-old manager's right shoulder.

"I've got a great bunch. We don't have one hot dog in the bunch," the pizza magnate said. "They're all great guys. ... The Tigers are something special."

... The Tigers are something special."

Detroit won its 11th American League pennant and first since 2006. The Tigers have five days off before the World Series starts Wednesday at defending champion St. Louis or 2010 winner San Francisco.

After scoring in just three of 39 innings during the series, New York headed home to face unpleasant questions about its future following a postseason of awful hitting, benched stars and veterans showing the wear and tear of age. Rodriguez, the \$275 million third baseman, was out of the starting lineup for the



Detroit Tigers' Phil Coke and teammates celebrate after winning Game 4 of the American League championship series against the New York Yankees Thursday, Oct. 18, 2012, in Detroit. AP

DETROIT (AP)—Delmon Young is finally playing up to his vast potential.

Perfect timing.

Young was selected MVP of the AL championship series Thursday after batting .353 with two homers and six RBIs for the Detroit Tigers in a four-game sweep of the New York Yankees.

The designated hitter capped his latest clutch performance with a run-scoring single in the first inning to get the Tigers off to a good start en route to an 8-1 rout in Game 4 that put them in the World Series.

"He got hot again this year at the right time for us," manager

Young wins MVP award

Jim Leyland said. "He stepped it up under the big lights. Not that they are not bright all year, but they are a little brighter this time of year. He stepped it up two consecutive years for us. And the MVP, what a tremendous honor for him."

Earlier this year, Young found mostly trouble.

Back in April, he was charged with a hate crime and suspended by Major League Baseball. His older brother, two-time All-Star Dmitri Young, said that was a turning point in Delmon's life.

"It forced him to focus on being the player that was the No. 1 pick overall," Dmitri Young said from California in a telephone interview Thursday night with The Associated Press. "He's gotten a chance to show people who the true Delmon Young is, and not the guy who did what he did on that one night."

Delmon Young, the top pick in the 2003 amateur draft by Tampa Bay, was arrested nearly six months ago in New York on a hate-crime harassment charge. He was accused of yelling anti-Jewish epithets at a

group of tourists, tussling with them and tackling one to the ground while the Tigers were in town to play the Yankees.

Young was suspended for seven days without pay by the commissioner's office. He appeared briefly in a Manhattan court in August for an update on the misdemeanor case and his lawyer said Young was trying to work out a deal with prosecutors.

Young has said he regrets what happened. His lawyer, Daniel J. Ollen, has said the player reacted to something that was said to him. Young is free on \$5,000 bond and due back in court Nov. 7, after the World Series.

Cardinals beat Giants to take 3-1 lead in NLCS

ST. LOUIS (AP)—The St. Louis Cardinals are oh so close. They know better than to start celebrating yet.

To a man, the defending World Series champions kept their latest victory in perspective Thursday night. Before cashing in another wild-card run to a second straight pennant, they've still got to beat the San Francisco Giants one more time.

"We're not taking the last game to get into the World Series for granted," Matt Holliday said after an 8-3 win put St. Louis up 3-1 in the best-of-seven NL championship series with a chance to wrap it up at home. "The Giants have proven they're a great team and they had their backs to the wall against the Reds."

Seated next to Holliday on the podium, Adam Wainwright chimed in: "Well said."

The Giants won three straight to eliminate Cincinnati in the di-

vision series. Now they have to do it again against a team that appears to have everything working. "They do have something, there's no getting around that," San Francisco manager Bruce Bochy said. "It's not over. We've been in this position. We know it's an uphill battle, but we've been here before."

The Giants are in a hole after Wainwright threw seven innings of four-hit ball and St. Louis' offense roughed up Tim Lincecum and the San Francisco bullpen.

"This is where we are and what we've got to deal with," Hunter Pence said. "The last series we were down in a similar situation, but this is a new series."

The Cardinals can close it out at home Friday night in Game 5. Lance Lynn faces Giants lefty Barry Zito, and a St. Louis win would set up a 2006 World Series rematch with Detroit.

Plus, the Cardinals could

have Carlos Beltran back in the lineup. Beltran missed virtually all of Games 3 and 4 with a left knee strain but is optimistic about playing in Game 5 after doing some jogging and hitting indoors Thursday.

"Right now, the plan is to come in tomorrow and do what I have to do in order to be in the lineup," said Beltran, who is batting .375 in the postseason with three homers and six RBIs. "Today was a better day for me, better than yesterday."

"Tomorrow is the day I need to go for it."

Holliday, Jon Jay and Yadier Molina had two RBIs apiece to lead a 12-hit outburst by a team that batted just .198 through the first three games of the series.

Lincecum was a bust in his first postseason start since the 2010 World Series clincher over Texas, giving up four runs in 4 2-3 innings.

"That second inning was a little bit laborious, but the third and fourth were a little bit better and I thought I was going to carry it further in the game," Lincecum said. "I ran into some bumps in that fifth."

The two-time Cy Young Award winner with the quirky delivery earned a shot based on nearly spotless relief work earlier in the postseason but reverted to regular-season form, when he was 10-15 with a 5.18 ERA, worst among qualifying starters in the National League.

Wainwright was a glorified cheerleader while rehabbing from reconstructive elbow surgery during the Cardinals' improbable title drive last fall. They earned the wild card on the final day of the season and then upset the favored Phillies, Brewers and Rangers to give manager Tony La Russa a chance to retire on top.

third time in the playoffs. Derek Jeter and Mariano Rivera could only watch following season-ending injuries.

The Yankees, with a big league-high \$222 million payroll, hit .188 in the postseason - a record low for a team that played at least seven games - and .157 in the LCS. New York went quietly in the ninth inning, with the Comerica crowd chanting "Sweep!" while the last three batters were retired in order.

Detroit outthrew New York 16-2 in the finale and 46-22 in the series. The Tigers' starters are 4-1 with a 1.02 ERA in this postseason.

Without a World Series title since 1984, Detroit lost to Texas in last year's ALCS, lost slugger Victor Martinez to a season-ending knee injury in January and quickly replaced his offense by signing Fielder. The excitement of that bold acquisition subsided a bit when the Tigers struggled to a 26-32 start in the AL Central, but they overtook the Chicago White Sox in the final 10 days of the regular season and won the division with an 88-74 record, matching the Cardinals for the fewest wins among the 10 playoff teams.

"I just reminded everybody when we took our punches all year, 'You know what? Let's just wait till the end, and then if we have underachieved, I will be the first one to admit it,'" Leyland said. "So hopefully we've quieted some doubters now. The guys just stepped it up when we had to. We caught a couple breaks when the White Sox couldn't win a couple of games they needed to win."

In the postseason, Detroit's rotation has been impeccable. Scherzer, Justin Verlander, Anibal Sanchez and Doug Fister allowed only two earned runs against the Yankees. New York was shut out once and totaled six runs in the series.

"Unbelievable. It's why we're here right now because our pitching," Cabrera said. "Wow!"

Scherzer allowed a run and two hits in 5 2-3 innings in the finale, struck out 10 and walked two.

"I really had my changeup and my slider going," he said. "When I can combine that with my fastball, that's what makes me effective."

The Yankees, without a World Series title since 2009, lost Jeter to a broken ankle in the opening game, and the slumping Rodriguez was benched for Game 3. He was out of the starting lineup for Game 4 too, but A-Rod did have one last chance to turn his postseason around when Scherzer was lifted for left-hander Drew Smyly with two outs in the sixth and the Tigers up 6-1.

As Smyly finished warming up, Rodriguez popped out of the dugout to hit for Raul Ibanez, but with runners at the corners, he hit a routine fly to center field. He grounded out in the ninth, completing a 3 for 25 (.125) playoffs with no RBIs.

49ers make just enough plays, hold off Seahawks



SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Two of the NFL's top defenses dueling it out in a low-scoring game just as everybody expected - and San Francisco's offense did just enough to give the 49ers a narrow lead in the NFC West.

For the time being, anyway. This is hardly the kind of firm hold on the division they owned last October.

Alex Smith threw a 12-yard touchdown pass to Delanie Walker late in the third quarter and San Francisco held off the Seattle Seahawks 13-6 on Thursday night as the 49ers won their long-awaited division opener.

"We expect these games in the NFC West to be 60 minutes of physical football," said 49ers left tackle Joe Staley, who returned to the field four days after suffering a concussion against the Giants.

Frank Gore ran for 131 yards and the 49ers (5-2) hung tough on defense late in a game featuring two teams allowing fewer than 16 points per game.

Smith went 14 of 23 for 140 yards in a second straight subpar performance.

"That was the most physical 30 minutes of football in the second half that I have ever seen our football team play," 49ers coach Jim Harbaugh said. "It's a sweet win. It was a real football fight, and our guys won it."

Walker's score was San Francisco's first touchdown in seven quarters after an embarrassing 26-3 loss to the New York Giants on Sunday in a lopsided rematch of the NFC championship game. The tight end broke his jaw in two places at Seattle last Dec. 24 and sat out until the title game.

NFC rushing leader Marshawn Lynch finished with 103 yards for Seattle (4-3).

It's now Harbaugh 3, Pete Carroll 0 since these coaching rivals started facing off in the NFL last year after all those memorable moments in the college game.

Harbaugh's teams sure have shown they are quick to forget their losses. The 49ers improved to 5-0 after regular-season defeats since reigning NFL Coach of the Year Harbaugh took over before last season.

Pulling off this one could give the 49ers some momentum, too. It was the first of two straight prime-time games for San Francisco, which doesn't play again until Oct. 29 at Arizona.

The defensive fight left the animated coaches shaking their heads and hollering on opposite sidelines all game, offering plenty of entertainment for the sellout crowd of 69,732 at balmy Candlestick Park.

"We found ourselves in a real slugfest here today," Carroll said. "I'm not surprised it could have gone that way



San Francisco 49ers quarterback Alex Smith (11) scrambles, as he is chased by Seattle Seahawks defensive ends Jason Jones (90) and Chris Clemons (91) during an NFL football game in San Francisco, Thursday, Oct. 18, 2012. The 49ers won, 13-6.

Tebow could step in at RB for short-handed Jets

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. (AP)—Tim Tebow might add a new job title to an already-lengthy list.

The do-it-all backup quarterback could see time at running back in the New York Jets' banged-up backfield Sunday against the New England Patriots on Sunday.

"That's a possibility," coach Rex Ryan said Thursday. "The thing about Tim - with him being a football player like we've always talked about - by playing quarterback, he knows all the positions. So, can you plug him in at running back? Can you plug him in at tight end or whatever?"

"I think the answer is yes."

The Jets are a bit short-handed at the position with backups Joe McKnight (sprained left ankle) and Bilal Powell (separated right shoulder) likely out for the game—although McKnight insisted, "It's for first place, I'm in there." That leaves only starter Shonn Greene and rookie Jonathan Grimes, who has yet to play, as the team's only completely healthy running backs. Lex Hilliard is the remaining fullback after the Jets waived John Conner on Wednesday.

Offensive coordinator Tony Sparano

with two good defenses and two teams committed to running the ball."

These teams met in Weeks 1 and 16 last season, with the 49ers beating Seattle 33-17 at home for Harbaugh's first victory as an NFL coach.

no echoed Ryan's comments on Tebow, and was just as vague.

"There's a possibility," he said. "There's a possibility for a lot of things. We'll see."

But could Tebow actually make a good running back?

"I think Tim Tebow could be good at whatever he wants to be good at," Sparano said.

Tebow's role has been limited in his first season with the Jets, but he has carried the ball 18 times for 64 yards - all on direct snaps as the team's wildcat quarterback or in the read-option package. He has lined up at quarterback, tight end, wide receiver, fullback and running back at times throughout the season, creating the element of surprise for opponents.

Patriots coach Bill Belichick said earlier in the week that Tebow is "really a running back" for the Jets, so Ryan's acknowledgement should hardly come as a surprise to him.

"He's a good runner, he's a strong runner, very strong," Belichick said. "He's mobile in the pocket, (a) smart player, he can do a lot of different things. Different option plays and things like that, so you certainly have to

This one was close until the end.

"We had a long drive in the third quarter. We just kind of felt them start to give up a little bit, and they knew we were just going to keep running the ball on them," 49ers right guard Alex

be aware of him when he's in there."

Greene ran for a career-high 161 yards last Sunday against Indianapolis as New York rolled up 252 yards on the ground. It might be tougher sledding in Foxborough this weekend, though, with the Patriots ranked sixth overall against the run. So, the Jets might be forced to change some things up if Greene struggles early. That means Tebow could see some extensive time in the backfield - and maybe even get a few carries.

"Who's that?" Greene said with a straight face.

You know, that guy the Jets traded for in March to give the offense a boost?

"No," Greene said. "Never heard of him."

Seriously, though, Greene insists he would be OK if Tebow took some of his carries in game - as long as it helps New York win. However, he wouldn't bite on detailing what Tebow would bring to the position.

"I don't know," Greene said. "I guess I'll see, just like you guys."

Added Grimes: "Man, everybody loves to see Tebow get out there and do his thing, and I do, too. Whatever it takes to win."

Boone said. "It was more of, 'Let's get back to our roots and do what we're good at,' that's being physical, pounding the ball. Frank's a great runner."

After Walker's touchdown, Dashon Goldson intercepted a deep pass by

Russell Wilson to thwart Seattle's next drive after NaVorro Bowman clobbered the rookie quarterback as he was trying to throw.

Smith gave the ball back with an interception of his own early in the fourth quarter. His fifth interception of the season matched his total from all of 2011.

Harbaugh went to backup Colin Kaepernick for one keeper play that lost a yard, then Smith returned for third-and-goal on the 7. He scrambled to his left looking for an open receiver and Brandon Browner jumped in front of a pass intended for Randy Moss.

That gave Seattle the ball back with 11:58 remaining. Yet again, the Seahawks couldn't capitalize on a night of missed opportunities and dropped balls.

Gore had his third 100-yard game of the season, not to be outdone by Lynch on the other side.

"I just got in that rhythm, and once I get in that rhythm, I feel I can't be stopped," Gore said.

Lynch carried 19 times and bounced back from a 41-yard outing in Sunday's comeback 24-23 home win against the Patriots. The 49ers and their top-ranked defense hadn't allowed a 100-yard rusher in 22 consecutive home games before New York's Ahmad Bradshaw ran for 116 yards and a touchdown Sunday - and now the Niners made it twice in five days.

Not that they should have been too surprised. This is Lynch, after all.

The last time they faced off, on Dec. 24, Lynch ran for 107 yards as San Francisco's defense had its streak of not allowing a 100-yard rusher end at 36 games. And his 4-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter also was the first TD rushing allowed by San Francisco all season.

Wilson, who spoke leading up to the game that he couldn't wait for his introduction to this heated rivalry, went 9 of 23 for 122 yards, an interception and two sacks. Aldon Smith sacked him with 1:25 left, then Paul McQuistan was called for a chop block on Smith in the end zone with 43 seconds left. It would have been an automatic safety, but the 49ers declined the penalty. The play was reviewed and Seattle was short of the first down.

Wilson faltered after he threw two late touchdown passes as the Seahawks rallied for 14 points over the final 7:31 to stun New England on Sunday.

"The way we lost was frustrating. We could have done some things better," Wilson said. "I could have done some things better."

San Francisco was in control of the division at this stage last season—sitting at 5-1—but needed a big second half Thursday after a quick week of preparation.

Armstrong's foe says finding truth the No. 1 goal

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)—Even those who don't recognize his name will almost certainly know what Travis Tygart has been up to lately.

To put it simply, he's the man who's been making life difficult for Lance Armstrong.

Part teacher and part preacher for his cause, Tygart's official title is chief executive officer of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency. He's a man who doles out lessons about playing fair while also

trying to cajole confessions from those who don't.

His mission: Make sports a sanctuary for finding out which athlete is most talented and has worked the hardest, not who's the best cheater.

Most recently, that mission has led Tygart to spearhead the case that's ended Armstrong's cycling and triathlon careers. Only a year ago, that task seemed even more difficult than out-pedaling him in the Tour de France. Now, Arm-

strong has been cut loose by his major sponsors and is no longer the face of the Livestrong charity he founded.

As it turns out, the man who became Armstrong's greatest adversary is like him in some ways.

Both Armstrong and Tygart are 41. Like Armstrong, Tygart is in great shape and loves to get on the bike every once in a while.

And like Armstrong, Tygart has a stubborn streak in him. A big one.

"I saw at an early age that working hard is how you become successful," says Tygart, who learned his lessons about teamwork and sports growing up in Florida, where he was on state-championship baseball and basketball teams in high school.

"Playing sports as a kid, I learned all the valuable lessons that I think sports should teach. I'm determined to do everything possible to maintain those lessons for kids growing up."

Tygart has parlayed that credo into a career that, because of his role in taking down one of the world's most famous athletes, has made him among both the most trusted and reviled figures in sports - even if only a small minority of sports fans would recognize him walking down the street.

"I always knew I wanted to do something that made a difference. It was never about anything other than trying to change the world for a better tomorrow," he says, a self-conscious laugh creeping in when he hears how much his words seem like a superhero's catchphrase.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
EAST						
N.Y. Jets	3	3	0	.500	133	141
New England	3	3	0	.500	188	137
Miami	3	3	0	.500	120	117
Buffalo	3	3	0	.500	137	192
South						
Houston	5	1	0	.833	173	115
Indianapolis	2	3	0	.400	100	145
Tennessee	2	4	0	.333	114	204
Jacksonville	1	4	0	.200	65	138
North						
Baltimore	5	1	0	.833	161	118
Cincinnati	3	3	0	.500	149	163
Pittsburgh	2	3	0	.400	116	115
Cleveland	1	5	0	.167	134	163
WEST						
Denver	3	3	0	.500	170	138
San Diego	3	3	0	.500	148	137
Oakland	1	4	0	.200	87	148
Kansas City	1	5	0	.167	104	183
NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
East						
N.Y. Giants	4	2	0	.667	178	114
Philadelphia	3	3	0	.500	103	125
Washington	3	3	0	.500	178	173
Dallas	2	3	0	.400	94	119
South						
Atlanta	6	0	0	1.000	171	113
Tampa Bay	2	3	0	.400	120	101
Carolina	1	4	0	.200	92	125
New Orleans	1	4	0	.200	141	154
North						
Chicago	4	1	0	.800	149	71
Minnesota	4	2	0	.667	146	117
Green Bay	3	3	0	.500	154	135
Detroit	2	3	0	.400	126	137
West						
San Francisco	5	2	0	.714	165	100
Arizona	4	2	0	.667	110	97
Seattle	4	3	0	.571	116	106
St. Louis	3	3	0	.500	110	111

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TWO

From Page 24

was the last match in M-League's Week 4 schedule and was the first game played in about two weeks. Week 3 matches (Oct. 7 and 10) and the first three games in Week 4 (Oct. 14) were cancelled due to the inclement weather.

When Matansa, which won over Kanoa in Week 2, returned to the pitch, Dhiraj Chhetri broke the ice for the former, scoring in the 17th minute. Matansa preserved the 1-0 cushion at the break, as Shirley's continued to play sluggish on offense after a long break.

Shirley's slump was extended in the second half, while Matansa scored two more goals to complete the easy win. Alji Mandampala found the back of the net right into the first minute of the second half, while Ho Jin Woo also made it to the scoreboard a few minutes later.

Meanwhile, two Division 1 games and one Division 2 will be played tomorrow at the Oleai pitch. In the first game at 2pm, Wild Bill's will take on Inter Godfather's, while Korean Football Association on Saipan will challenge Tan Holdings FC in the second match at 4pm. For the Division 2 tiff at 6pm, Kanoa Resort will face Matansa FC.

Wild Bill's has a 1-0-0 win-draw-loss record, getting its first win against Tan Holdings FC, 3-2, while Inter Godfather's has a 1-0-1 slate. Tan Holdings also has a 1-0-1 card, recording its lone victory against Inter Godfather's, while KFAS owns a 1-0-0 mark, winning over Paire FC in the opener.

The fall season of the M-League will have a double-round robin format with the No. 1 finisher in Division 1 getting the championship and the last placer dropping to Division 2. The top finisher in Division 2 will then be promoted to Division 1.

Try Luck stretches lead in Ladies division

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER

Jonny's Bar & Grill's Try Luck, Oceanside Bar & Grill's Mafia, and Triple Threat remain in control of their respective divisions in Saipan Electronic Dart Association's 2012 Summer/Fall Bud Light Open Dart League.

Try Luck is boasting a 20-game lead in the Ladies field after crushing SOS Bar & Grill's Wonder Women (71-109), 13-2, on the road last Monday. The win improved the two-time champion's record to 143-37.

Bammy's Restaurant & Bar's Momes'l Mei (123-57) comes next in the standings, though at a distant second, however, as it managed to get on its horse this week and corralled a 14-1

home rout of Oceanside's Shooters G-Side (67-113).

The third-ranked Es'y Kitchen's B-52 Shooters (110-70) trail the pair by quite a bit, but represents the last group with a winning record nonetheless. The B-52 Shooters went into Joe's Steakhouse this week and skunked the Daffodils (43-137), 15-0, while Naked Fish Bar & Grill's Man Amigas (83-97) pulled off a sweet 11-4 home upset over Joe's Just Like Dat (80-100) to surpass its rival in the standings.

Notables remain a 160-high in by Momes'l Mei's Frances Magofna and a 152-high out by her teammate Sally Aguon.

In the A division, Mafia escaped past SOS's 101 Proofers (73-97), 9-8, for a

relieving road thriller and improved its card to 107-63.

Mafia is still running the show, but gave up a significant part of its lead, as second placer SOS's Outlawz (100-70) surged to within seven games this week with a strong 14-3 road rout over the third-ranked Oceanside's Bud Brothers (94-93).

Bammy's Sabalu Boys (74-96) drew a bye this week and Sands Bar's Juvy Predators (81-89) swapped chairs with SOS's Mixblood Shooters (83-104) after a 10-7 victory at home.

Notables remain a 160-high in and a 131-high out by 101 Proofers' Rolly Bermiso.

In the Tuesday B field, Triple Threat toasted SOS's Dartaholiks (89-91), 12-3, at home to improve to a 132-48 slate.

Triple Threat padded its lead against Naked Fish's IT&E Na'Gupu II (115-65) to 17 games after the lopsided win. Naked Fish's IT&E Na'Gupu II also won this week, grinding out an 8-7 road win over third placer VFW Post 3457's Delubyo (104-76). The Top 3 contenders are beginning to pull away from the rest of the group.

In other results, SOS's Seabridge 80 Proofers (83-97) recorded an 8-7 upset over Oceanside's Good Guys (85-95), while Waterfront's K-1 Scorpions (67-113) posted a solid 9-6 home victory versus bottom feeder Oceanside Wreckless Precision (38-142).

Notables remain a 150-high in by K-1 Scorpions' Anson Jones and a 123-high out by Good Guys' Dexter Brennan.

SIS

From Page 24

GCA's favor.

In the second set, two GCA errors gave SIS the early advantage and the latter stretched its lead to as much as 7 points, 20-13, as McCullough-Stearns drew enough help from Johnson and Jones in manning the net and the front-line and Annie Camacho, Amy Xie and Phalai Frink chased and received GCA's returns at the backline.

A McCullough-Stearns's spike from the center SIS' court moved the Geckos

to game point, as Michiko Tenorio could not handle the hit with the ball bouncing off her arms and hitting the roof. However, SIS failed to close out the second set, as Libut and Manglona connected on their own kills to keep GCA afloat, 22-24. Libut went for another spike, but this time, McCullough-Stearns' long arms were there to stop him and give SIS the game point.

The Geckos, who also battled GCA in a three-set finale in their previous two outings, rode on their momentum in the deciding third set and held an 8-4 lead when opposing teams switched courts.

Again, McCullough-Stearns anchored SIS' attack and his dependable back-ups—Jones and Johnson—also scored a couple of points off their spikes.

At this point, GCA supporters clamored for the Eagles to set up Libut. However, the GCA top hitter was out of position most of the time and instead Genesis Manglona and James' brother, Jonathan, tried to keep up with the Geckos frontliners and were out-matched by the taller SIS players.

McCullough-Stearns' kill for the nth time put SIS one point away from clinching the crown, 14-7. Credit half of the

point to Jones, who beautifully set up McCullough-Stearns for the powerful strike, which went to GCA's backline with A.J. Batallones almost losing her balance, as she tried to make the dig.

Despite trailing by 7 points, the Eagles refused to give up and they scored 3 straight points with Jonathan Libut serving and SIS's two kills going out of bounce. The Geckos sued for time to break GCA's momentum and coach Mili Saiki's move paid off, as when the game resumed Jonathan Libut rushed his serve and the ball hit the net before dropping to the Eagles' court.

FIESTA

From Page 24

period. The Fiesta top gunner went on to score 28 points in the second half to lift his team to the one-point win.

JP Centre 78, POI 58

In the first game, JP Centre snapped its two-game losing streak after beating POI in the first game.

JP Centre drew double figures from five players to move up to a 3-3 record, while POI fell to a 2-4 card. John March Ong paced JP Centre with his 22 points, Mark Rabago added 12, and Ferdie de la Torre, Rowel Caduan, and Dino Valdez chipped in 10 each.

After taking a 22-17 advantage at the end of the first period, JP Centre opened

a double-digit lead at halftime, 39-25, as it held POI to 8 points. JP Centre padded the lead in the last three quarters, as it continued to get contributions from every player it fielded in the game.

Kanoa Resort 70, CTSI/D&Q 68

In the second game, Kanoa Resort edged CTSI/D&Q.

Leonard Sablan made the crucial points for Kanoa Resort, scoring the team's last 4 markers. Sablan went on to finish with 17 markers to back up the 18 of John Guerrero, Ryan Manglona and Dindo Pablo logged 15 and 14, respectively.

CTSI/D&Q was without its key player, Jack Lizama, but Edong Echavez stepped up, drilling 10 points in the first period to give the

team a 24-17 advantage.

However, CTSI/D&Q failed to sustain its momentum and was limited to 9 points in the second period, allowing Kanoa Resort to grab the upper hand, 39-33. Four different Kanoa players lit up the scoreboard in the second canto to wrestle the driver's seat and it kept the lead in the second half with Sablan teaming up with Ryan Manglona and John Guerrero on offense.

First Game

JP Centre 78 – Ong 22, Rabago 12, Valdez 10, de la Torre 10, Caduan 10, Moran 4, Angeles 4.

POI 58 – Mejia 18, Arago 14, Indalecio 10, Camacho 6, Esteves 4, Iglecias 4.

Scoring by quarters: 22-17, 39-28, 53-43, 78-58.

Maicer Izturis and Alberto Callaspo the Los Angeles Angels deployed this season and he'd be popular with the team's Latino fan base as long as he remained productive.

Even the Chicago White Sox might be an option, since the club has made a habit of taking on fading stars in recent years, so long as the price is right. Best of all, though, might be the Houston Astros, who have money to throw around as a result of an agreement with Major League Baseball to move to the AL next season, and desperately could use the buzz.

That said, not one of those clubs is likely to consider Rodriguez at the full retail price. But the Yankees have a history of unloading high-priced talent by continuing to pay part of the bill and estimates the team would have to fork over somewhere between 50 and 75

able fit with the Yankees. He's a target for the tabloids, even when he's not in the game, a reminder of which came with a report in the New York Post that he spent some of his time on the bench Saturday night flirting with two fans two rows behind the New York dugout. And at 37, with his skills in decline, he still has five years and \$114 million guaranteed to run on his contract, plus the power to veto a trade. But that doesn't mean it can't happen.

In the National League, Atlanta could use a name to replace Chipper Jones at third. Rodriguez also would be a fit at third for Miami, where he grew up and owns a home that he's trying to unload for \$38 million. The Dodgers' new ownership hasn't been shy about accumulating high-priced talent and current third baseman Luis Cruz isn't going to help sell tickets.

But A-Rod to the American League seems like a better deal all around. His current contract contains a number of bonuses for career milestones - all home runs - and his best chance to eventually reach those is as a designated hitter.

Based on his performance this season, Rodriguez would be an immediate upgrade at third over the platoon of

Second Game

Kanoa Resort 70 – Guerrero 18, Sablan 17, Manglona 15, Pablo 14, de Leon 4, Ada 2.

CTSI/D&Q 68 – Echavez 12, Jinang 11, Eliesar 10, Mendiola 10, Piteg 8, Canchero 5, Shai 4, Alcantara 2, Salazar 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-24, 39-33, 57-49, 70-68.

Third Game

Fiesta 85 – Esdrelon 28, Macoto 13, Galag 12, Solito 7, Villamena 6, Reyes 4, Quizon 3.

Shirley's Coffee Shop 84 – Yap 24, Usi 15, Sedillo 15, Dela Rosa 12, Catungal 4, Laxa 4.

Scoring by quarters: 11-21, 35-50, 60-67, 85-84.

percent of his salary for the next five years aren't necessarily a deal-breaker. Not after this postseason.

Recently, Yankees President Randy Levine was asked whether he thought A-Rod would still be wearing pinstripes when his current deal ended in 2017. He told ESPN Radio in New York, "That's like one of those questions: Where's the stock market going to be in 2017, who's going to be president on Nov. 15?"

"If I had crystal ball to predict all of that stuff, I'd be a lot smarter than I am," he added. "I'm not going to go there."

Not yet, anyway, and not before this season comes to a merciful conclusion. But Rodriguez lost the fans long ago, and from the sound of things Girardi and general manager Brian Cashman might not be too far behind.

**Activity Schedule for Saturday, Oct. 20, 2012**

Tan Holdings Inter-Company Basketball League 2nd Season

4:00PM

5:30PM

8:00PM

Shirley's Coffee Shop vs. JP Center

Kanoa Resort vs. Pacific Oriental Inc.

CTSI-D&Q vs. Fiesta Resort & Spa





**Tigers rout
Yankees for
ALCS sweep**

PAGE 21

Saipan Tribune Sports



**49ers make just
enough plays,
hold off Seahawks**

PAGE 22

24 SATURDAY - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20-21, 2012

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

SIS reclaims varsity championship

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

It is Saipan International School's turn to savor the sweet taste of revenge.

The SIS Blue Geckos regained the varsity championship they lost to Grace Christian Academy after eking out a three-set victory in a classic finale in the 2012-2013 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Volleyball League.



The Geckos, who ended GCA's six-year reign with a win in the 2010-2011 season only to return the crown to the Eagles last year, avenged their loss with a 19-25, 25-22, 15-10 victory yesterday at the packed Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Clay McCullough-Stearns, Rafael Jones, and Andrew Johnson held their ground against the Eagles' James Libut to lift SIS to a come-from-behind win and the Geckos first this season against GCA, which defeated its rival twice in the regular season.

The Eagles also absorbed their lone defeat of the season and it came in an unfortunate time, as they lost steam and failed to focus their play on Libut in the last two sets. Libut was in his usual form in the opening set, getting away with his patented powerful kills, including one that went off the hands of McCullough-Stearns and ended the first set in

See SIS on Page 23



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan International School's Clay McCullough-Stearns leaps for a kill during the second set of their varsity title game against Grace Christian Academy in the 2012-2013 Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association Volleyball League yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Fiesta's Adonis Macoto, left, tries to dribble out of the defense of Shirley's Fradel Sedillo during the second quarter of their game in the Tan Holdings caging last week at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex.

Fiesta snaps Shirley's streak

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Defending champion Fiesta Resort and Spa opened the second round of the 2012 Tan Holdings Inter-Company Basketball League with a big win, pulling off an upset over league-leading Shirley's Coffee Shop, 85-84, last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex.

Elmer Esdrelon made the winning basket for Fiesta in the closing seconds to hand Shirley's its first loss in six games. Fiesta improved to a 2-4 record.

Shirley's had the lead for the last time at the 84-83 tally after Rommel Usi canned a triple and with about 6 seconds remaining on the clock, Esdrelon

escaped with a layup to grab the lead. Shirley's was then left with about two seconds to pull up for the shot, but failed to do so, ending its winning run in the six-team field.

After the loss, Saipan Tribune learned Shirley's complained on the alleged failure of the table officials to press the clock after Usi's triple. However, game officials stood by with the results and Fiesta kept the win, as Shirley's did not formally place the game under protest.

Fiesta stole the victory despite falling behind by as much as 19 points in the second quarter. Shirley's was in control of the match in the first half after capitalizing on the absence of Esdrelon, who just started playing in the third

See FIESTA on Page 23



By JIM LITKE
AP Sports Columnist

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at jlitke@ap.org and follow him at [Twitter.com/JimLitke](https://twitter.com/JimLitke).



Time to put A-Rod on auction block

Alex Rodriguez is as good as gone. He was the most feared hitter of his generation once. Now he's an afterthought.

Yankees manager Joe Girardi said as much in the aftermath of Tuesday night's AL championship series Game 3 loss to the Tigers. What may turn out to have been New York's last chance to change the course of the series came in the ninth inning with two on and two out and left-handed reliever Phil Coke on the mound. Instead of bringing the right-handed Rodriguez in to pinch-hit, or even as a decoy to force his Detroit counterpart, Jim Leyland, to turn to right-handed reliever Joaquin Benoit, Girardi elected to roll the dice once more with the Raul Ibanez.

Unlike when Girardi played a similar hunch last week against Baltimore, letting Ibanez pinch-hit for Rodriguez, the left-handed veteran struck out to end the game.

"Joe, did you consider hitting Alex or a right-handed hitter?" a reporter asked. "What went through your mind there when Ibanez came up?"

"Well," Girardi replied, "they were going to bring in Benoit."

"So you liked that first matchup better than the other one?"

"Ibanez has been one of our best hitters down the stretch here," Girardi said matter-of-factly.

Thanks to that thicket of statistics Girardi has within arm's

See TIME on Page 23



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Matansa's Ho Jin Woo, seen here going for a kick during their debut game against Kanoa Resort, scored one goal in their 3-0 win over Shirley's FC at the resumption of the M-League last Wednesday night at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Two in a row for Matansa

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The M-League resumed last Wednesday night at the Oleai Sports Complex Field with Matansa FC shutting out Shirley's FC, 3-0.

With the victory, Matansa gained a share of the Division

2 lead with MP United, as the co-leaders are undefeated in two games. Shirley's absorbed

its third loss in a row to remain at the bottom of the team standings. Kanoa Resort completes the field and is also winless in two games.

The Matansa-Shirley's tiff **See TWO on Page 23**

